Weekly Compilation of

Presidential Documents

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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on March 1, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, March 1, 2002

Statement on the Train Fire in Al-Avyat, Egypt

February 22, 2002

I am profoundly saddened by the terrible loss of life in the train fire in Al-Avyat. This tragedy is all the more horrible because it took place during the holiday of Eid al-Adha. Laura and I and all of the American people offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to President Mubarak, the Egyptian people, and especially to those families who have lost loved ones.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7524—Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons Responsible for Actions That Threaten Zimbabwe's Democratic Institutions and Transition to a Multi-Party Democracy

February 22, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In light of the political and humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe and the continued failure of President Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwean government officials, and others to support the rule of law, and given the importance to the United States of fostering democratic institutions in Zimbabwe, I have determined that it is in the interest of the United States to take all available measures to restrict the international travel and to suspend the entry into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants, of senior members of the government of Robert Mugabe and others detailed below who formulate, implement, or benefit from policies that undermine or injure Zimbabwe's democratic institutions or impede the transition to a multi-party democracy.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, 8 U.S.C. 1182(f), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, hereby find that the unrestricted immigrant and nonimmigrant entry into the United States of persons described in section 1 of this proclamation would, except as provided for in sections 2 and 3 of this proclamation, be detrimental to the interests of the United States.

I therefore hereby proclaim that:

Section 1. The entry into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants, of the following persons is hereby suspended:

(a) Senior members of the government of Robert Mugabe and other Zimbabwe nationals who formulate, implement, or benefit from policies that undermine or injure Zimbabwe's democratic institutions or impede the transition to a multi-party democracy;

(b) Persons who through their business dealings with Zimbabwe government officials derive significant financial benefit from policies that undermine or injure Zimbabwe's democratic institutions or impede the transition to a multi-party democracy; and

(c) The spouses of persons described in paragraphs (a) and (b), above.

Sec. 2. Section 1 of this proclamation shall not apply with respect to any person otherwise covered by section 1 where entry of such person would not be contrary to the interest of the United States.

Sec. 3. Persons covered by sections 1 and 2 of this proclamation shall be identified by the Secretary of State or the Secretary's designee, in his or her sole discretion, pursuant

to such procedures as the Secretary may establish under section 5 of this proclamation.

Sec. 4. Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to derogate from United States Government obligations under applicable international agreements.

Sec. 5. The Secretary of State shall have responsibility for implementing this proclamation pursuant to such procedures as the Secretary may establish.

Sec. 6. This proclamation is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as the Secretary of State determines that it is no longer necessary and should be terminated, either in whole or in part. Any such termination shall become effective upon publication in the *Federal Register*.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:51 a.m., February 25, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on February 26. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

February 23, 2002

Good morning. As I return from a successful trip to Asia, the United States Senate will return from its recess for an important debate on America's energy security.

As our economy continues to grow, U.S. oil consumption is projected to increase by about one-third during the next 20 years. Our demand for electricity is expected to rise by 45 percent. America is already using more energy than our domestic resources can provide, and unless we act to increase our energy independence, our reliance on foreign sources of energy will only increase. I have a balanced, comprehensive, and aggressive energy plan that will help address this challenge.

The plan has five main parts:

First, it promotes conservation. It increases funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs and supports the development of fuel-efficient vehicles.

Second, my plan will modernize our energy delivery systems. America can't meet tomorrow's energy needs with yesterday's infrastructure. Just as the Internet has made our information more convenient, new technology can make our energy cleaner, cheaper, and more efficient by upgrading powerlines and connecting producers and consumers across the whole country.

Third, my new budget invests in new technologies such as fuel cells that may someday power our cars with hydrogen and emit only water.

Fourth, my plan offers tax credits and other incentives for the use of renewable energy sources like wind power, solar power, and fuels derived from crops. Renewable energy can increase our energy independence and help our farm economy.

Conservation technology and renewables are important. Yet they alone cannot solve our energy problems. We must also reduce America's dependence on foreign sources of oil by encouraging safe and clean exploration at home.

On my way to visit Asia, I stopped in Alaska, a place of tremendous natural beauty and important energy resources. I met with many Alaskans, including native leaders, who want to preserve the grandeur of their State while carefully developing the energy beneath a small fraction of it. New technology makes this possible; our national security makes it urgent.

Alaskans know firsthand that modern technology allows us to bring oil to the surface cleanly and safely, while protecting our environment and wildlife. We should listen to Alaskans who support exploring ANWR in a safe and clean way.

Passing my comprehensive energy plan is not just important for energy security, it is also vital to our economic security. Economic growth requires reliable and affordable energy, and labor organizations support my plan because they know my energy plan means thousands of new jobs across America.

We all remember the blackouts and the sky-high energy bills of recent summers. I urge Congress to protect consumers from these wild swings in energy prices for the future. The House has passed my agenda for energy independence; now I urge the Senate to act.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 3:30 p.m. on February 21 at the St. Regis Hotel in Beijing, China, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 23. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 22 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Memorandum on the President's Report to Congress on Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries

February 23, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002–07

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: President's Report to Congress on Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries under the FY 2002 Modification to the Annual Drug Certification Procedures

This report is submitted under section 591 of the Kenneth H. Ludden Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002 (P.L. 107–115) (the "FY 2002 FOAA"). Pursuant to section 591 of the FY 2002 FOAA, I hereby identify the following countries as major drug-transit or major illicit drug producing countries: Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, Venezuela, and Vietnam. I previously identified these same countries as major drug-transit or major illicit drug producing countries on November 1, 2001, pursuant to section 490(h) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the "FAA").

Pursuant to section 591 of the FY 2002 FOAA, I hereby designate Afghanistan, Burma and Haiti as countries that failed demonstrably, during the previous 12 months, to adhere to their obligations under international counternarcotics agreements and to take the counternarcotics measures set forth in section 489(a) (1) of the FAA. I have attached a justification for each of the countries so designated, as required by section 591.

Pursuant to section 591(3), I hereby also determine that provision of United States assistance to Afghanistan and Haiti in FY 2002 under the FY 2002 FOAA is vital to the national interests of the United States.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this report to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 4, 2002]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 25. The memorandum and the attached statements of explanation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 5.

Remarks to the National Governors' Association Dinner

February 24, 2002

Ladies and gentlemen, Laura and I would like to welcome you all to the White House. It's good to see a lot of our friends, and we're so honored you are here.

Tonight is a special night for us, but it's no more special—but especially special for three people. Three birthday people: Governor Siegelman, Governor Ryan, and Governor Swift. Happy birthday.

I also want to welcome members of my Cabinet and my team who are here. I've assembled a fabulous team. They bring a lot of experience to their jobs. I'm really proud of the Cabinet members who have been Governors: Tommy Thompson, John Ashcroft, Tom Ridge, and Christie Whitman. They understand firsthand the issues that Governors face every day. And my administration is

working hard to make sure the Federal Government is more responsive to your needs.

Since we met last, America has been attacked and has been wounded by terrorists. We've been inspired by acts of courage and generosity. And this Nation has confirmed a deep sense of national purpose. We're determined to protect the American people by fighting terror wherever it is found. This cause will take years, require the patience of the American people, and it will require participation of all levels of government.

And we've made a very good beginning. Our military has routed the Taliban, and we're hunting down Al Qaida. We've worked to take preventive measures to stop any attack, and we're prepared to respond should they come.

The Governors have taken threats seriously, and you've acted quickly to confront them. And our Nation is grateful.

At every stage of this crisis, I have benefited from your counsel. I've been inspired by your leadership. I was touched by my friend George Pataki's calm demeanor during the crisis in New York. I know our Nation needs to develop a national strategy to protect the homeland, and that's why I picked a fellow Governor, a former Governor, and a good friend, Tom Ridge, to lead the effort.

America's Governors have displayed leadership at a time when history demanded it. And so it's with deep respect and gratitude that I offer this toast to the Governors of the United States.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:10 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Don Siegelman of Alabama; Gov. George F. Ryan of Illinois; Gov. Jane Swift of Massachusetts; and Gov. George E. Pataki of New York. This transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 25.

Remarks on a Comprehensive Energy Policy

February 25, 2002

Thank you all for coming today. I'm honored to be joined by Secretary of Energy Spence Abraham and Administrator Christie Todd Whitman of the Environmental Protection Agency. We're here to discuss an energy plan, a comprehensive energy plan that recognizes that through technology, we can increase our national security and economic security by reducing demand for petrochemicals, and at the same time, we can clean up the air in our country. I want to thank these two leaders for having a practical vision as to how to achieve common objectives.

Any sound, comprehensive energy policy must both increase production and reduce consumption. It's important for Americans to remember that as we debate an energy bill, as we have a discussion about an energy plan, that America imports more than 50 percent of its oil—more than 10 million barrels a day. And the figure is rising.

This is dependence on foreign oil. And this dependence is a challenge to our economic security, because dependence can lead to price shocks and fuel shortages. And this dependence on foreign oil is a matter of national security. To put it bluntly, sometimes we rely upon energy sources from countries that don't particularly like us.

Now, it's also important to realize that the transportation sector consumes more than two-thirds of all the petroleum used in the United States, so that any effort to reduce consumption must include ways to safely make cars and trucks more fuel efficient. New technology is the best way to do so, and today we had a chance to see some of the best new technologies being developed by American ingenuity.

Hybrid cars, the likes of which we just saw over there, are already in existence. They run on a mixture of gas and electric power. They are several times more fuel efficient than most cars on the road today. I was told by the representatives of the manufacturing companies that more and more hybrid cars will be available in the marketplace next year. And this is good news. It's good news for our environment, and it's good news for American consumers who are not only worried about the environment but understand the ramifications of dependency on foreign sources of crude oil.

And then the fuel cells are being developed. Fuel cells will power cars with little

or no waste at all. We happen to believe that fuel cells are the wave of the future, that fuel cells offer incredible opportunity.

Now, there's a lot of obstacles that must be overcome in order to make fuel cells economically viable. And therefore, we're promoting more research and development. In January Secretary Abraham announced a $150 million FreedomCAR plan, focused on development of fuel cell technologies that run on hydrogen, whose only emission is water vapor.

Imagine when that technology comes into being. Imagine how less dependent America will be on foreign sources of energy and how more easy it'll be to clean up our air. And we've got plenty of water, and if water vapor is the product, we'll be in good shape. But we need to have a focused effort to bring fuel cells to market, and that's exactly what my administration is dedicated to do.

There's been some breakthroughs already. After all, NASA developed fuel cells to generate electricity, heat, and water in space vehicles. Businesses started using them in 1995. And that's why we are optimistic that within a reasonable period of time, that fuel-cell technology will become more widespread.

We've also, in the bill I submitted, made it clear that any good comprehensive energy plan must encourage consumption by providing over $3 billion of consumer tax credits, available for those who purchase hybrid and fuel-cell vehicles over the next 11 years. In other words, there is a role for the Federal Government, not only to encourage research and development but a role to provide tax credits to enhance the marketplace.

Technologies will also enable us to preserve our environment as we explore for natural gas at home. And I urge the United States Senate to pass a comprehensive energy plan quickly. The House has acted, and now the Senate must act. And the Congress needs to get a bill to my desk.

The other feature about the energy bill that is important is that it's a jobs bill. That's why the Teamsters strongly support the energy package we submitted to the United States Congress. This is an important piece of legislation, and I urge quick action.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks on Being Presented With the World Trade Center Bullhorn and an Exchange With Reporters

February 25, 2002

President Bush. Listen, I want to—I want to welcome Bob Beckwith to the Oval Office, and his wife, Barbara, and his two grandchildren and son and daughter who are here, and son-in-law.

As you may remember, I met Bob on the heap of a burnt-out fire engine in New York. And he didn't know, and I didn't know that we were going to meet on that day, and I had—I was traveling there with George Pataki and Rudy Giuliani. And it was my chance, after the National Prayer Service, to go to New York City and tell the good people of that town, that city, how the Nation stood with them. I had a chance to go and see the firefighters and the police officers who had been giving every ounce of their energy to rescue their fellow citizens.

And I was given a bullhorn, and it turned out to be one of those moments where I had a chance to speak to the world on behalf of the citizens of New York. And Bob was standing there by my side.

I told Bob when he came in, "You made me famous that day." But I want to thank you, Bob, for coming back, and I want to thank Colonel Wiese as well, who rescued the bullhorn and will let me keep the bullhorn for the library. There's a father-and-son exhibit that's going to go on at the Bush Library, "Bush 41" Library, at Texas A&M, and this will be one of the key parts of the exhibit. It's an historic—really an historic memento. Something we didn't choose, but it's one of those days that I'll never forget, and I want to thank you.

Mr. Beckwith. I'll never forget.

President Bush. It was an amazing experience. You know, I didn't realize at the time that you and I walked up on the heap of a burnt-out fire engine. I didn't realize that—and what's interesting, as a result of that, some people in Louisiana saw us standing on the fire engine and went and raised

money for a new fire engine for New York. So that event had a lot of interesting ramifications.

Governor Pataki. Mr. President, since September 11th, you've provided incredible leadership and really inspired the country. There are many unforgettable moments. But one that Bob and I and his family and much of America will never forget was 3 days after that attack when you came to Ground Zero. And it was exactly the right time.

As Bob can say, everybody was exhausted and worn out, and you didn't come for a photo op; you spent hours touring the site and shaking hands with the firefighters and the construction workers. And I'll never forget the moment when you and Bob stood on that wreck, and the President was talking, and one of the construction workers yelled out, "We can't hear you." And the President said, "Well, I can hear you. The whole world hears you, and pretty soon those evildoers will be hearing from us."

And Mr. President, they have heard from us, and your leadership has been inspiring. And this is what you said those words with, and I'm proud to present it to you for the Presidential Library. Americans will never forget.

[*At this point, Gov. George E. Pataki of New York presented the bullhorn.*]

President Bush. Thank you.

Daniel Pearl

Q. Mr. President, are you satisfied with Pakistan's response in the Daniel Pearl case? And is the United States interested in pursuing or indicting the primary suspect that's now in custody there?

President Bush. I am satisfied with the response of President Musharraf and the Pakistani Government. I got a phone call from him when I was flying back from China, and I could tell from the tone of his voice how distraught he was, how disturbed he was that this barbaric act had taken place in his country. He knew full well that those killers did not represent the vast, vast majority of the people in his own country. And he vowed to me on the phone that he would do everything in his power to chase down the killers and bring them to justice.

And yes, we're always interested in dealing with people who have harmed American citizens.

Economic Stimulus Package

Q. Mr. President, what are your thoughts on an economic stimulus package now? Do you think there's really an opportunity to work with the Democrats in the Senate, particularly given signs that, albeit slowly, the economy is beginning to recover?

President Bush. Well, I've got to tell you something: It's a matter of will and desire. If people put their mind to something, we can get things done in Washington, DC. I think we need an economic stimulus package. I think it's important for our economy. I think any time people are not working who need to be working, who want to work, we've got to do everything we can to make sure the environment is such that they can work.

Secondly, I'm going to talk to the Governors today and remind them that in the economic stimulus package was some emergency Medicaid money, as well as the national emergency grants, because it's what—emergency grant money to help Medicaid bills as well as grants for emergency situations to help people with their health care bills.

And yes, I think we need that bill. And I hope the Senate will take it up and pass it.

Pentagon Office of Strategic Influence

Q. Sir, have you told Secretary Rumsfeld to get rid of the office of disinformation that he's talking about?

President Bush. I told Secretary Rumsfeld—I didn't even need to tell him this. He knows how I feel; I saw it reflected in his comments the other day—that we'll tell the American people the truth. And he was just as amazed as I was about reading, you know, some allegation that somehow our Government would never tell the American people the truth. And I don't—I've got confidence, having heard his statement—I heard him this morning talk about it—that he'll handle this in the right way.

Superfund

Q. There was a report over the weekend, Mr. President, that questioned the administration's commitment to the EPA Superfund. Are you committed to fully funding the Superfund, sir?

President Bush. I'm committed to cleaning up the environment without enriching lawyers.

Q. I'm sorry?

President Bush. I think there's too much litigation when it comes to environmental cleanup. What I want is action and results. And so we're looking at ways to make sure the Superfund fulfills its mission. And you cannot sue your way to clean air and clean water and clean land. It's got to be a system that focuses on efficient, good ways to make sure we accomplish the mission. And I think—so yes, we're looking at ways to reform the system to make sure it works, make sure it actually accomplishes what the Congress wants it to accomplish.

Steel Decision/Hybrid Vehicles

Q. [*Inaudible*]—and I was wondering if you could tell us if you're worried at all that your position on steel would hurt the automakers' ability——

President Bush. I haven't made a decision yet on steel. I haven't made a decision on steel yet. I'm in the process of reviewing all—all the facts. But I have made a decision on the need for the use of technologies to clean up our air and explore for more energy and change the automobile fleet.

One of these days, this little lady right here is going to be driving an automobile with a hybrid engine in it and a fuel cell in it. And it's going to work. And I hope I'm around to see it, too.

World Trade Center Bullhorn

Q. We thought the bullhorn had been lost. How were you able to find it?

President Bush. The colonel found it; it's the actual one, too.

Q. It never was lost? It's the real one? It's the actual one?

President Bush. Yes.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to retired New York City firefighter Bob Beckwith and his wife, Barbara; former Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City; Col. Daniel Wiese, Assistant Deputy Superintendent, New York State Police and commander, New York State Police Executive Services Detail; and President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan. A reporter referred to Wall Street Journal journalist Daniel Pearl, who was kidnaped January 23 in Karachi, Pakistan, and later killed by his captors.

Remarks Honoring the 60th Anniversary of the Voice of America

February 25, 2002

Well, thank you very much for that warm welcome. I'm glad I came. [*Laughter*] Bob, I want to thank you very much for your hospitality, and I want to thank you very much for your willingness to take the reins of the Voice of America in such a critical time.

I also want to thank all the supporters who are here, those who support the Voice of America. And I'm glad to see so many friends of international broadcasting here: the Voice of America staff, the members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, former Voice of America Directors, former U.S. Information Agency Directors, staff and directors from Radio Free Asia, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, Radio Marti. You all are dedicated professionals who serve your country and its highest ideals with honor and with purpose.

I also want to thank Marc Nathanson, who's the chairman of BBG—deserves a special thanks for his endowment of the Nathanson Fellows, between the Voice of America and the Annenberg School of Journalism.

Sixty years ago, only 79 days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the first Voice of America broadcast across the Atlantic into Nazi Germany, with these words: Here speaks a voice from America. We shall tell you the truth.

For decades, the Voice of America has told the world the truth about America and our policies. Through a World War and a cold war, in crisis and in calm, the Voice of America has added to the momentum of freedom.

And now, in a new conflict, I'm proud to say that the Voice of America still speaks strongly and clearly.

To people whose governments broadcast messages of bigotry and hate, the Voice of America sends a message of tolerance and respect. To people who are told that democracy is soft and weak, the Voice of America shows freedom's strength and determination. To people who live under governments that sustain their power with lies, the Voice of America brings truth.

Under some regimes, like that in North Korea, simply listening to the Voice of America is treated as a crime. And the fears of these regimes are well-founded, because tyranny cannot survive forever in an atmosphere of truth. The Voice of America is not neutral between America and America's enemies, between terrorism and those who defend themselves against terror, between freedom and between tyranny. The Voice of America is a broadcaster with a special purpose, a special mandate, and a special trust.

As President Reagan said, "Freedom is not the sole prerogative of a lucky few but the inalienable and universal right of all human beings." The Voice of America spreads that message throughout the world, with special emphasis on those countries where information is restricted and free voices are silenced.

The Voice of America broadcasts in 53 languages, to nearly every country on Earth, reaching an audience of over 90 million listeners. Many are listening right now, exercising their God-given right to freedom, free access of information. And their numbers are growing every day. The Voice of America's new Middle East Radio Network will offer music, reliable news and information in Arabic, and an opportunity to better understand American principles and American actions.

And I want to thank Norm Pattiz for his perseverance and dedication to this project. Even before our Armed Forces helped bring freedom to the Afghan people, the Voice of America was bringing them the news in languages of Dari and Pashtu. Since September the 11th, Voice of America has increased its programming in these two languages, serving as a vital partner in helping rebuild that country.

Throughout its history, Voice of America has applied the power of technology to the advance of liberty. It has used every means possible—shortwave, television, and now the Internet—to bypass the barriers of tyrants. Radio waves are not hindered by borders, and as technology improves, the Internet will become less vulnerable to the censor's hand. No one knows what new information technologies will be available 60 years from now, but two things we do know: First, that the Voice of America will find a way to use them; and second, though these means of delivery may change, the message never will.

It's a simple message. It's a message of freedom, and freedom is worth defending. And the truth, no less than the force of arms, is needed for its defense.

Since 1942, you have defended freedom by speaking the truth to millions. You not only have the ear of the world; you have the gratitude of your country.

May God bless your efforts, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:16 p.m. in the Wilber Cohen Auditorium at Voice of America headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Robert R. Reilly, Director, Voice of America; and Marc B. Nathanson, Chairman, and Norman J. Pattiz, member, Broadcasting Board of Governors. The President's remarks were broadcast live on the Voice of America.

Remarks to the National Governors' Association

February 25, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Welcome back. I've got a few remarks I'd like to make. I understand a couple of Governors are going to make some remarks, and then I'll be glad to answer some questions if you have any.

First, I again want to say what I said last night. This has been a trying time for all of us. We've been tested here in the Nation's Capital, but you all have been tested, as well. And I want to congratulate you on your great leadership.

You know, the people of our country looked to all of us to determine how we'd

react after September 11th. And I was impressed by the calm demeanor of the Governors and the steady resolve to lead the people. The country cried for leadership, and you all provided it. And thanks a lot for doing that.

I also love to welcome Governors because Governors are problem-solvers. In this town, there's a lot of talkers and kind of problem-shufflers. But Governors are problem-solvers. And it's going to be good to be able to talk to each other about how to solve problems that we face, budget problems, the issue of homeland security, education, as well as welfare reform.

And I want to talk about three of them briefly today, and that's homeland security—first, I appreciate the Governor, the leadership. I want to thank Engler, and Governor Patton for you hosting the NGA here and coming by the White House.

I also want to thank my friend Tom Ridge. You know, he was doing pretty good as the Governor of Pennsylvania, just sitting around—[*laughter*]—looking for something to do. And I called him, and I said, "We've got a problem. We've got to secure our homeland." I said, "This is an enemy that wants to hit us again," and I said, "We'd better be ready." And I said, "Would you come and be a member of my Cabinet, be sitting at my right hand there, and design a national strategy for homeland security?" And fortunately for the country, he said yes, and he's doing a fine job.

And we've begun, as you all know, an extensive program to have a better first-responders initiative. And we've got $1.6 billion of new money in the budget for that—no—yes, 3.5—right. But I mean—for homeland, for first-responders is how much?

Director Ridge. We're going—different parts of it are going up, but this is 3.5.

The President. Three-point-five, and then we've got 1.6 for bioterrorism. And we're working on a border security initiative, and we're reforming the INS.

As I like to tell people, we now need to know who's coming in and when they're leaving, for the good of the security of the country. I remember going up to Maine and talking about strengthening the Coast Guard, which matters to those of you who live on the oceans and on the Gulf of Mexico. The Coast Guard is such a valuable part of our homeland security piece, and our budget includes increases for the Coast Guard, a modernization of our fleet.

And so I'm real proud of the efforts we're making. And obviously, you all play a crucial role in not only helping develop a homeland defense strategy but the implementation of the strategy. And I think you'll find—I guess Tom has talked to you already—that we understand the need to coordinate. And both of us were Governors, and we simply do not want the Federal Government to be—seem distant and removed on this important issue.

And then education, we passed a great education bill. As I used to—I tease people, I said it came as a complete shock to people in Crawford, Texas, that I would say that Ted Kennedy did a great job on a bill, but he did. This is a good piece of legislation because it sets clear priorities, it encourages accountability so that no child is quit on, that people—we focus on each individual child.

It also provides States more flexibility than ever before, and it's got some money in it. It's got more Title—$1 billion in more Title I money. It's got a substantial increase for the reading initiative. It is a good piece of legislation. And now, obviously, it depends upon its implementation. And so we're working closely with Rod Paige and the Department of Education to make sure that the intent of the law is now implemented fully. And we look forward to working with you on that.

Obviously—I used to say that education is to a Governor what national defense is to the President. It is by far the most important priority for a Governor. And I know that, and I understand that. And this bill is—it reflects that. And we'll make sure the implementation of it reflects that, as well.

And then welfare reform, welfare authorization is coming up. I start with the idea that the '96 bill was a really good piece of legislation. And it changed welfare for the better, primarily because it relied upon Governors. It had a substantial local control element in it. And so as we reauthorize welfare, we want to make sure that there is substantial authority at the local level.

We'll talk about funding. The budget I laid out for welfare reform holds the grants constant. Actually, it increases the—as a result of the supplemental and the contingency fund, it increases funding by—let's see, 3.2 billion over the next 5 years, on top of the grants that are already in place.

And so the fundamental question is, will there be enough local authority, enough flexibility at the local level to meet what I hope Congress passes, which are new work requirements. See, I think work ought to be the core of welfare reform. I think in order to make sure that welfare reform works, that there's flexibility at the States, that there's recognition people need training or drug rehabilitation, but work ought to be the centerpiece of a good welfare law.

And the bill I'm going to outline tomorrow, with Tommy at my side—where are you, Tommy? There he is—is going to take the positive pieces of the '96 welfare law, changing welfare as we know it, and we're going to make it better. There's more to do, and we look forward to working with you on that, as well.

And so those are the things that are on my mind. I know you've got things on your mind, and I look forward to hearing them. And we can have a good discussion today.

I want to welcome you back. I recognize I'm not exactly Bernadette Peters—[*laughter*]—but she did a fabulous job last night to fill this hall. It was such a joyous night, and it's particularly joyous for me and Laura to be with our old friends, the Governors.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:12 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. John Engler of Michigan; Gov. Paul E. Patton of Kentucky; and entertainer Bernadette Peters.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

February 25, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with Public Law 95–384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period December 1, 2001, through January 31, 2002. The previous submission covered October 1 through November 30, 2001.

On January 16, Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash began direct talks on the island under the auspices of the United Nations. As in past reporting periods, Special Cyprus Coordinator Thomas G. Weston and U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Donald K. Bandler continued to provide diplomatic support to the process. The United States remains committed to the United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the Reallocation of Emergency Response Funding

February 25, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In furtherance of the provisions of Public Law 107–38, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States, FY 2001, today I am notifying the Congress of my intent to reallocate funds previously transferred from the Emergency Response Fund to the Department of Defense. This reallocation reflects revised requirements in light of changing security needs in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

As provided in Public Law 107–38, $33 million will be made available 15 days from the date of this transmittal for continued deployment of the National Guard at our Nation's airports through the end of March.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the

Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 26.

Remarks During a Visit to the East Capitol Center for Change and an Exchange With Reporters

February 26, 2002

[*The President's remarks are joined in progress.*]

The President. ——with healers, people of great and deep faith, who have come from some of the toughest circumstances known, to be leaders in their communities; people—one-time crack addicts, a heroin user, both of whom now are a good mom and dad; people who are helping others to learn that there's a better way.

And I just want to thank you all for sharing with me your experiences and your thoughts. You know, my dream for the country is that the welfare system work side by side with the faith-based programs, which can do a heck of a good job about changing people's hearts and their souls and, therefore, their minds and, therefore, their behavior. And you're living proof of what I'm talking about.

So I want to thank you for sharing your testimony with us. It only strengthens my resolve to make a good law that will propel the healers of America forward. And it only strengthens my knowledge about where the true strength of the country is, and it's in the hearts and souls of our citizens.

Thank you for your time, Curtis. Thank you for your leadership. I appreciate you inviting us to your program. I look forward to sharing some thoughts about some legislation.

Welfare Reform

Q. Are there enough jobs——

The President. I'm going to make sure the economy grows. And yes, there are.

Q. You stiffened the requirements. Do you think there's enough jobs in this economy?

The President. Yes, I do.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:47 p.m. in the gymnasium at St. Luke's Catholic Church. In his remarks, he referred to Curtis Watkins, executive director, East Capitol Center for Change. The press release issued by the Office of the Press Secretary did not include the complete opening remarks of the President. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on the Welfare Reform Agenda

February 26, 2002

Thank you very much for that warm welcome, and thank you for your kind introduction, Tommy. Tommy, as Bob Woodson noted, was on the leading edge of welfare reform in the State of Wisconsin, and the people of Wisconsin were better off for it. And fortunately, he's agreed to come to Washington, DC, to serve an incredibly important position as the Secretary of Health and Human Services. And the American people are going to be better off for his leadership, as well.

I appreciate Bob Woodson's spirit. I like to call Bob a social entrepreneur. And there's a lot of social entrepreneurs here in this room, and I want to thank you for caring about your communities. I had the privilege and honor of meeting with some neighborhood healers here a little earlier, soldiers in the armies of compassion, people whose lives were one time dark and hopeless, who now see a bright and clear future because of faith and are willing to share that future with others.

It was a powerful meeting for me. I sometimes get encapsulated in a bubble. It is important for me to, as often as I can, to hear the true stories of America. It reminds me of the strength of our country, and the strength of the country is in the hearts and souls of compassionate citizens. So thank you all very much for sharing your stories with me today.

I see that we've got some Members of the United States Congress here. I see a Senator, a couple of House Members. I want to thank you all for coming. I appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedules to come and

to hear what I hope happens when it comes to the welfare bill, its reauthorization. I'm really honored you took time.

And I also want to thank a couple of my Governor buddies. I see the Governors of Wisconsin, Colorado, and Tennessee are here. You all are awfully kind to come. Thank you for being here, as well. We appreciate your presence.

I also want to thank Curtis Watkins. Curtis is a social entrepreneur, as well. He started the East Capitol Center for Change and provides support and care to countless lives. Curtis, thank you for your time, and thank you for what you do. See, this is something Government can't start. We can try, but we're not very good about inventing programs such as this. This program was invented because somebody loved their neighbor as much as they loved themselves. And as a result, there is a program—programs here which work on crime prevention and substance abuse treatment.

Listen, there's all kinds of ways to treat substance. I understand that. But one sure way to help, one sure way to help somebody kick the habit is to introduce them to faith.

Curtis' program has got mentoring and after-school activities. Mentoring programs are so important, because it gives somebody a chance to say to a young child, "I love you. America belongs to you just as much as it belongs to anybody else."

There's Bible studies here; there's job training programs here; there's forums to improve parenting skills and to strengthen marriage. This organization was built on a simple and powerful principle: Every life has equal value, and no life is beyond hope or help. This conviction motivates thousands all across our country, and this conviction must always be reflected in the policies of our Government.

Senator Hubert Humphrey once said that the moral test of a Government is how it treats those in the shadows of life. He was talking about the needy and the sick and the handicapped.

I believe Americans in need are not problems; they are our neighbors. They're not strangers; they are citizens of our country. And to live up to our national ideals, ideals of equality and justice, every American of every background must have access to opportunity. We must never be content with islands of despair in the midst of a nation of promise. We want all Americans to believe in the potential of their own lives and the promise of their own country.

So today I'm outlining the next steps of welfare reform, the next actions we must take to build a more just and generous nation. America began a war on poverty more than three decades ago, a story of good intention but conflicted results. There were important successes; no doubt about it, there were some good successes. Seniors were lifted out of poverty. Poor families got basic health care. Disadvantaged children were given a headstart in life.

Yet, many Americans, in Bob Woodson's words, were injured by the helping hand. The welfare system became an enemy of individual effort and responsibility, with dependence passed from one generation to the next. Between 1965 and 1995, Federal and State spending on poor and low-income families increased from around $40 billion to more than $350 billion a year. Yet, during the same 30-year period we made virtually no progress—no progress—in reducing child poverty, and the number of children born out of wedlock grew from 1 in 13 to 1 in 3.

By the mid-1990s, few denied there was need for change. In sweeping reforms passed by Congress, welfare benefits were transferred into temporary help, not a permanent way of life. The new system honors work by requiring work and helps people find jobs. States are required to promote independence, and they are given the flexibility to seek that goal in new ways, with dollars that were once used for welfare payments, for example, now being used for childcare and other ways to help working families.

Critics initially called these changes brutal and mean-spirited. Yet, the results of reform have proven them wrong. Many lives have been dramatically improved. Since 1996, welfare caseloads dropped by more than half. Today, 5.4 million fewer people live in poverty than in 1996, including 2.6 million fewer children. Child poverty for African-American children is at its lowest level ever. For the first time in generations, the out-of-wedlock

birthrate has leveled off, and the unwed teen birthrate has declined since the mid-1990s.

Many families understandably report financial difficulties in their lives after welfare. Yet, a majority also say that their lives are better. Many are learning it is more rewarding to be a responsible citizen than a welfare client; it is better to be a breadwinner respected by your family.

Sherrie Jordan, a mother of four children and a former welfare recipient living in Buffalo, New York, described her experience this way: "It's overwhelming. I'm very happy. There aren't many words to describe it. I'm looking forward to being financially independent. I can do it myself now."

Sherrie and millions of others are good people facing a tough climb. They are gaining self-confidence. They are earning the respect of their fellow citizens and their Nation.

Some analysts try to dismiss all these gains as the product of good economic times. Yet, we have had good economic times before, and the number of people on welfare went up. Beginning in the mid-1960s, welfare caseloads often increased even as the economy grew and unemployment fell.

Overall caseloads increased substantially over the last 30 years, but thanks to the 1996 welfare reform legislation, the increases have ended. Welfare reform in 1996 was good and sound and compassionate public policy. It passed because leaders of both political parties agreed on what needed to be done, and we need that same spirit of bipartisanship today in Washington, DC, as we address this issue.

We are encouraged by the initial results of welfare reform, but we're not content. We ended welfare as we've known it, yet it is not a post-poverty America. Child poverty is still too high. Too many families are strained and fragile and broken. Too many Americans still have not found work and the purpose it brings.

Because these needs continue, our work is not done. We will continue a determined assault on poverty in this country. Later this year, the 1996 welfare law must be reauthorized by the United States Congress. I have proposed spending more than $17 billion a year on welfare for years 2003 to 2007. These funds will be provided to States through block grants, giving them the flexibility to use the funds for their most pressing needs. The budget I submitted will continue to maintain historically high levels of childcare funding.

Yet, my administration will do more than spend money. We will pursue four important goals to continue transforming welfare in the lives of those that it helped. We will strengthen work requirements. We must promote strong families. We will give States more flexibility, and we will show compassion to those in need.

First, we will strengthen the work requirements for those on welfare. Work is the pathway to independence and self-respect. Yet, because of a quirk in the 1996 law, States on average must require work of only 5 percent of the adults receiving welfare. This is certainly not what Congress had in mind when it wrote the reforms in 1996, so I'm recommending that the law be changed and every State be required within 5 years to have 70 percent of the welfare recipients working, so that more Americans know the independence and the dignity of work.

Welfare recipients must spend at least 40 hours a week in work and preparing for work. Because many adults on welfare need new skills, my plan will allow States to combine work with up to 2 days each week of education or job training. So in other words, it's a combination of working and training. And for people who need intensive short-term help, our proposal offers 3 months of full-time drug rehabilitation or 3 months of full-time job training. And adolescent's mothers—adolescent mothers can meet their work requirements by attending high school.

At the heart of all these proposals is a single commitment to return an ethic of work to an important place in all American lives.

Secondly, we will work to strengthen marriage. As we reduce welfare caseloads, we must improve the lives of children. And the most effective, direct way to improve the lives of children is to encourage the stability of American families.

Across America, no doubt about it, single mothers do heroic work. They have the toughest job in our country. Raising children by themselves is an incredibly hard job. In many cases, their lives and their children's

lives would be better if their fathers had lived up to their responsibilities.

Statistics tell us that children from two-parent families are less likely to end up in poverty, drop out of school, become addicted to drugs, have a child out of wedlock, suffer abuse, or become a violent criminal and end up in prison. Building and preserving families are not always possible; I recognize that. But they should always be our goal.

So my administration will give unprecedented support to strengthening marriages. Many good programs help couples who want to get married and stay married. Isn't that right? We just talked about one such program. Premarital education programs can increase happiness in marriage and reduce divorce by teaching couples how to resolve conflict, how to improve communication, and most importantly, how to treat each other with respect.

There are also programs for couples with serious problems, alcoholism, infidelity, or gambling. Trained mentor couples who have had experience—who have experienced severe marital problems themselves now teach other couples how to repair their own marriages. Using this approach, one national program reports being able to save up to 70 percent of very troubled marriages.

Under the plan that I'm submitting, up to $300 million a year will be available to support innovation and to find programs which are most effective. You see, strong marriages and stable families are incredibly good for children. And stable families should be the central goal of American welfare policy.

The welfare system can honor the family in other ways. Under current welfare law, State governments can keep some of a father's child support payments to defray the costs of welfare. I'll give States financial incentives to give more of a father's child support directly to his children, instead of putting it into the welfare system. Mothers and children will be better off, and the children will see that their father supports and cares for them.

I'm also proposing $135 million for abstinence education programs. Abstinence is the surest way and the only completely effective way to prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. When our children face a choice between self-restraint and self-destruction, Government should not be neutral. Government should not sell children short by assuming they are incapable of acting responsibly. We must promote the good choices.

Third, we will give States greater flexibility in spending welfare money. Right now, there are hundreds—hundreds—of Federal Government programs to help low-income Americans achieve better lives. Unfortunately, recipients often find the different rules very confusing. Conflicting regulations are keeping people from getting the help they need when they need it.

My proposal will provide waivers to allow States to completely redesign how many Federal programs would operate in their State. Rather than dictate to States how each major welfare and training program should operate, we must allow States to use their creativity to build a network of assistance for low-income families. Americans will get better childcare services and better job training and better housing and better nutrition programs if States have the flexibility and freedom to explore innovative ideas.

And fourth, even as welfare reform proceeds, we must encourage the essential work of faith-based groups and charities. Work and independence are the goals of welfare reform. Yet, compassionate help for an abandoned child is not a work requirement; it is a loving mentor. The answer to addiction is not a demand for independence; it is personal support on the hard road to recovery.

Charities and faith-based groups fill needs that no welfare system, no matter how well designed, can possibly fill. Our Nation needs men and women who rescue children from gangs, who tutor children in failed schools, who visit the sick and the dying. In times of personal crisis, people do not need the rules of a bureaucracy; they need the help of a neighbor.

America's neighborhood healers, like the place we are today, are indispensable, are irreplaceable, and deserve our support. I support legislation that encourages charitable giving and ends discrimination against faith-based organizations that compete for contracts to provide social services to people who need help.

Faith-based groups are reclaiming America, block by block, life by life, from the inside out. We must encourage their work without undermining their freedom or their identity or their purpose. It is time for the United States Senate to pass the Faith-Based Initiative. The bill's sponsor, Rick Santorum, is here. I appreciate you, Mr. Senator, working hard. Get it out of the Senate, and get it on my desk for the good of the American people.

And at the same time, we must recognize that our Government has responsibilities to help people who cannot help themselves, that we've got a responsibility to help people who need a transition, that need a helping hand. We've got that responsibility. My budget reflects that responsibility. And there's one area that we need to improve help on: We need to restore nutrition benefits for legal immigrants.

The 1996 reforms imposed a 5-year ban on most welfare benefits for new legal immigrants, including a permanent ban on food stamps, unless immigrants have worked here for 10 years or have become citizens. We've proposed changing this law so that legal immigrants receive food stamps after 5 years, so that those who are eligible, those who need help, like an elderly immigrant farmworker, somebody who has worked hard all his life and cannot help himself, ought to get food stamps. Or a legal immigrant who has been working here for 5 years and raising a family and all a sudden gets laid off and needs a helping hand, ought to get food stamps.

This Nation must show compassion in a time of a person's need. These are the important goals that I've—that I want to talk to Congress about when the welfare reauthorization bill comes up: work, families, more flexibility to States, and compassion—a compassionate welfare system that knows the true strength of the country lies in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens.

We can build on the advances of recent years, confident there's more progress to be made and, therefore, expand the promise of this Nation. More Americans will know the dignity of a job. More children will find shelter in strong families. More citizens will gain the tools to succeed in a free society. And more Americans in need will find love and hope that can help them rebuild their lives.

Everyone can join in the work of welfare reform by serving a neighbor. Americans can heed that call in all kinds of ways, in local community groups. And if they're really interested, they can call the USA Freedom Corps or get on the Web site at usafreedomcorps.org to find out how you can help, how you can be a soldier in the armies of compassion, how you can put your good heart to work to make America a hopeful and strong and decent country for all of us.

We've made progress; there's no question the doors of opportunity that were shut and sealed have now been opened. Ask some of the folks on the stage here. They had that door slammed in their face, and now it's open, and there's a brighter day ahead.

Yet, there is no acceptable level of despair and hopelessness in America. We will not leave people in need to their own struggle, and we will not leave them to their own fate.

The success of the past few years should not make us complacent as a nation. They prove what is possible when we press forward, and I am determined to press forward to build a single nation of justice and opportunity.

May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:53 p.m. in the gymnasium at St. Luke's Catholic Church. In his remarks, he referred to Robert L. Woodson, Sr., founder and president, National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise; Curtis Watkins, executive director, East Capitol Center for Change; Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin; Gov. Bill Owens of Colorado; and Gov. Don Sundquist of Tennessee. Public Law No. 104–193, approved August 22, 1996, was the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

Statement on Proposed Pension Security Legislation

February 26, 2002

I applaud Senators Tim Hutchinson, Trent Lott, and Judd Gregg for introducing legislation today to strengthen the retirement security of American workers. This legislation

would protect workers by giving them freedom to manage their own retirement savings, fair notice of any blackout period, better access to sound investment advice, and is consistent with the retirement security principles I previously outlined. This bill also assures that corporate officers would be held to the same restrictions as those imposed on workers.

I look forward to working with the Congress in a bipartisan fashion to enact these important protections into law.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 1969, the "Pension Security Act of 2002."

Statement Following a Meeting With Southern African Leaders

February 26, 2002

Today I met with three Presidents who can help bring peace and prosperity to southern Africa. Presidents dos Santos of Angola, Chissano of Mozambique, and Mogae of Botswana and I discussed our common interests in working with each other and through the Southern African Development Community to bring greater peace, prosperity, and stability to the region.

I reiterated that expanding trade is the surest path to sustainable development. I commended the three Presidents' leadership in developing a regional strategy to combat HIV/AIDS and promote economic integration. As part of that effort, I asked the Presidents to join my call for the World Bank to begin providing 50 percent of its assistance to the world's poorest nations in the form of grants rather than loans.

The three Presidents also discussed the tragic wars in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We agreed that peace is within reach of both countries. I urged President dos Santos to move quickly toward achieving a cease-fire in Angola. And we agreed that all parties have an obligation to seize this moment to end the war and develop Angola's vast wealth to the benefit of the Angolan people. President dos Santos has it within his power to end 26 years of fighting by reaching out to all Angolans willing to lay down their arms. Angolans deserve no less.

Finally, I commend the work of former President Masire, President Mbeki, and other SADC leaders—including Presidents dos Santos, Chissano, and Mogae—on the Inter-Congolese Dialogue in South Africa. I remain committed to working with the leaders of southern Africa to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region.

NOTE: The statement referred to former President Quett K.J. Masire of Botswana and President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency Relating to Cuba and of the Emergency Authority Relating to the Regulation of the Anchorage and Movement of Vessels

February 26, 2002

On March 1, 1996, by Proclamation 6867, President Clinton declared a national emergency to address the disturbance or threatened disturbance of international relations caused by the February 24, 1996, destruction by the Government of Cuba of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba. In July 1996 and on subsequent occasions, the Government of Cuba stated its intent to forcefully defend its sovereignty against any U.S.-registered vessels or aircraft that might enter Cuban territorial waters or airspace while involved in a flotilla and peaceful protest. Since these events, the Government of Cuba has not demonstrated that it will refrain from the future use of reckless and excessive force against U.S. vessels or aircraft that may engage in memorial activities or peaceful protest north of Cuba. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing the national emergency with respect to Cuba and the emergency authority relating to the regulation of the anchorage and movement of vessels set out in Proclamation 6867.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 26, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:11 p.m., February 27, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 27, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on February 28.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Cuba

February 26, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, which states that the emergency declared with respect to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2002.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 26, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 27.

Remarks Following a Roundtable Discussion on Welfare Reform and an Exchange With Reporters in Charlotte, North Carolina

February 27, 2002

The President. We are honored—I am honored to be here. We just had a great discussion with folks here in Charlotte, Mecklenburg County. I am very impressed by the welfare-to-work program that has been instituted. There's obviously a sense of corporate responsibility in this community that is powerful, that recognizes that the bottom line is one thing but taking care of their fellow humans is another. The county—leadership in the county is forward-thinking and aggressive as to providing resources to help people, help each individual succeed. They've got a spirit of innovation here in this county that needs to be heralded because of the successes.

So I'm proud to be here. But I'm most proud of the individuals who have made a conscious decision to improve their lives and, therefore, in many cases, improve the lives of their children: Women who have overcome terrible odds to become successful role models, articulate spokespeople for themselves, their families, a system that cares about their successes.

And so I want to thank you all for sharing with me your stories and your history. Ella, today she works at the Park Hotel. She was down and out. She made a decision to succeed. She received the help necessary. And she read us a poem today that was so moving to all of us that we asked her to share that, if you don't mind.

[*At this point, discussion participant Ella Currence recited her poem entitled "The Struggle to Independence."*]

Q. Sir——

The President. A couple of quick ones.

Republic of Georgia

Q. Yes, if you don't mind. Do you think there's Al Qaida influence in Georgia?

The President. I do. So long as there's Al Qaida influence anywhere, we will help the host countries rout them out and bring them to justice.

Q. What specifically are we doing to help Georgia?

The President. Mainly, equipment and technical advice. Obviously, in order for us to work closely with governments that have been invaded by Al Qaida cells, they're going to have to request—request help. And we've made it very clear that either you're with us or you're against us, and we've made it very clear that we hope that nations step up and do their jobs.

Obviously, we've got a presence in the Philippines because there's an Al Qaida-affiliated group of people there. And we've had some successes in Yemen, where we're working. We're working around the world.

When this war started, I told the American people that there would be a variety of fronts on the war against terrorism, some of which would be very visible, some of which we wouldn't see much about. And the American people need to know that, one, we're maintaining our coalition and the efforts of the coalition, and two, any time we find terrorist organizations like Al Qaida, we will do everything we can to bring them to justice.

And so, yes.

Colombia

Q. Mr. President, what about Colombia? What can you do there? You have some legal constraints as to how far you can go.

The President. Well, we did have legal constraints. We were providing advice to the Colombian Government as to drug eradication, and we need to keep it that way. The law is very clear. If the Colombian Government decides to take military action against the FARC, which they—it looks like they may decide to do and continue to do, that is their business to do so. I applaud the efforts of the President, by the way, to try to bring order to the country. But we are restricted by law, and I intend to adhere to that law.

National Debt Ceiling

Q. Mr. President, what did you tell the congressional leaders this morning about the debt limit? And what ceiling are you comfortable with?

The President. Well, we'll leave the size of the debt ceiling to the Treasury officials. They will make the recommendation. But I told the—recommended to the Members of the legislation that we not play politics with the debt ceiling, that we're at war, we've got troops all around the world, we've got men and women whose lives are at risk. And now is not the time to be playing politics or using the debt ceiling as an excuse for some individual's cause.

We need to have a good, sane policy. And I think the Members there at breakfast agreed with me, that now is an inappropriate time to play politics with the debt ceiling. It's happened in the past. Both parties are guilty about playing politics with the debt ceiling. And I urge the Congress deal with the debt ceiling, deal with it in a professional way, and move it on.

Yes, Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Gallup Poll in Arab Nations

Q. Mr. President, the Gallup organization has run a poll in Arab nations showing that there is deep suspicion and resentment of the United States. What do you make of that? How big a problem? What can you do about it?

The President. Well, Terry, I saw that, briefly looked at—I haven't analyzed the sampling and who was asked and all that stuff. But here's my attitude. If the United States shows strong leadership when it comes to fighting terrorist organizations, the world will follow. And if we're determined and resolute at routing out murderers and killers, people who want to destabilize legitimate governments, the world, regardless of the nature of their population, the religious nature of their population, will respect that.

Secondly, there is no question that we must do a better job of telling the compassionate side of the American story. And I will give you one example. This kind and great Nation provides 300,000 tons of food a year to starving North Korean citizens. And yet, the North Korean citizen has no idea that we provided the food. We don't even know whether or not the food has gotten to the starving North Korean people. All we know is, we made a strong commitment, followed through on that commitment.

My point, Terry, is that it is essential for us to not assume that the kindness of the

country is known. And therefore, we've got to do a better job of telling the story. And I'll give you one good example of how we perhaps can do that. Colin Powell went on international MTV, and the first question he was asked, by a lady from Brazil—and I'll paraphrase—was basically, "Why is the nation of America so evil?" And it floored him, like it would floor most Americans to think that people would think of our Nation is evil, when, in fact, defending freedom is good. We're the largest supplier of help and food and medicine in the world. But Colin was able, in his classy fashion, to answer the question and all of a sudden was part of an education process.

So we've got work to do. And people will realize we're peaceful, yet we're determined and patient, and we use our strength for positive reasons.

Last question. I know you're awaiting my speech.

2002 Elections

Q. Mr. President, later today you're going to a fundraiser. As we move deeper into an election year that's also a year of war against terrorism, how much support can Republicans count on from their popular President?

The President. I'm interested in making sure that the Speaker of the House is Denny Hastert. I've made that very clear. I think my job will be easier if Denny Hastert is the Speaker. I'd like to see Trent Lott be the majority leader, and I will work to those ends.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:01 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce. In his remarks, he referred to President Andres Pastrana of Colombia. He also referred to FARC, Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the Chamber of Commerce in Charlotte

February 27, 2002

Thank you. Only in America. [*Laughter*] Frances, thanks. I appreciate your story; I appreciate your courage; and I appreciate your introduction. I'm also thankful that Tommy Thompson agreed to leave the State of Wisconsin to come and help make sure that Health and Human Services was run in the right spirit, in the right, compassionate attitude, one in which we fight for Federal funds that are reasonable and realistic but understand that the true wisdom and strength of the country is at the local level.

Speaking about the local level, I want to thank the mayor and Parks. Thank you very much for being here, as well. I appreciate both you all's leadership. The innovation that takes place in this community is positive and strong, and that's why we're here, to herald a program that actually works. Sometimes they sound good on paper. They read good, but the results are short. And that's not the case in Mecklenburg County when it comes to putting people to work. So I want to thank you all for your leadership.

I had the privilege of flying down with Sue Myrick and Robin Hayes today on the airplane, two really good United States Congressmen from the State of North Carolina, people who understand that North Carolinians can best run North Carolina, and not people out of Washington, DC. So I want to thank you all for coming. And I want to thank Rodney Carroll, as well, for being here. I want to thank Carroll Gray and members of the Chamber.

A lot of times I talk about responsibility, ushering in a period of responsible behavior in America. There is such thing as corporate responsibility, corporate America not only making sure the balance sheets are real, that all assets and liabilities are exposed for shareholder and employee alike. But there's something about saying, "I'm going to do something in the community in which I live," working hard to take the extra step to employ somebody, to keep them on, to help them work through their difficulties. This is a community in which corporate North Carolina or corporate Charlotte has heard that call, and I want to thank the Chamber for being on the leading edge of encouraging corporate responsibility.

First, let me tell you that, as I said a while ago, the state of this Union is very strong. It is clear to me, when I sat in the room today, that the state of the State of North Carolina is strong and vibrant, at least in this corner of the State, if not the whole State.

But the state of our Union is strong. We are steady; we're resolved; and we are a determined nation.

You know, the enemy attacked a nation that they thought was weak, and man, did they make a mistake. They thought the United States was so materialistic, so caught up in a false Hollywood vision of America, that we would accept their attack as part of the normalcy in America, that we would do nothing about it. And they've now learned that this Nation is absolutely resolved to defend that which we hold dearest to our heart, and that's freedom—that when somebody attacks freedom, that we'll defend it with all our force and all our might. And that's what we're doing.

I think the country has laid out a clear message: First, that either you're with us, or you're against us in the fight for freedom; that either you stand beside this great Nation as part of a coalition that will defend freedom and defend civilization itself, or you're against us.

I think the message has gotten out. The world is knitted up pretty tight when it comes to bringing the Al Qaida and other killers to justice. We've had over a thousand arrests around the world, different countries, different governments that are putting these Al Qaida people behind bars. We're slowly but surely, methodically and patiently demolishing Al Qaida so they cannot hit us again.

We have made it clear that if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you train a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist. And the Taliban Government in Afghanistan found out exactly what I meant, thanks to a strong and spirited, well-motivated, well-trained United States military, a military of which I am immensely proud.

We have liberated a country. This great Nation seeks not revenge but justice, and at the same time, we're not conquerors, but we're liberators. We have liberated women and children from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes history has ever known.

It was my honor to welcome Mr. Karzai and his Cabinet, including a woman minister, to Washington, DC, and hear him firsthand say how anxious he is to restore Afghanistan to normalcy, where women and children, young girls are educated, just like young boys, where people are given a chance in life.

The Taliban made a terrible mistake, and they paid a dear price. And I'm grateful for the United States military for the job it's done, but more importantly, so are the average citizens of Afghanistan.

I want to tell my fellow Americans that we're still in a dangerous period when it comes to the first theater in the war against terror—dangerous because, until we complete our mission, which is to bring all Al Qaida killers to justice, that we're going to hunt them down, that we will stay on task. The good news for our United States military is that the American people are very patient, and they're resolved, just like our military is resolved.

But we're now facing people who send young kids to suicide—on suicide missions, and they, themselves, try to hide in caves; a leadership which is willing to send some mom's child on a fruitless mission in the name of religion, and they, themselves, are doing everything they can to hide and not be accountable for what they've done.

But they can't hide long enough. There's no cave deep enough for them to avoid the long arm of justice of the United States. And so it doesn't matter how long it takes, as far as I'm concerned. It doesn't matter if it's a month, a year—Al Qaida, the people who killed thousands of United States citizens, the thugs who want to challenge freedom wherever it exists, those who use religion in the name of murder will be brought to justice.

But it's not just Al Qaida. The mission is more than just one group or one individual. History has called us into action. History has given this Nation a chance to lead a coalition to fight terror wherever it exists.

There is a nightmare scenario that we must not let happen. Imagine, for example, if a faceless terrorist organization was able to team up with a nation which sponsored and developed weapons of mass destruction. Imagine how the balance of power in the world would change.

We're not going to let that happen. The United States of America cannot let nations that are not transparent, closed societies, societies which harm their citizens, societies

which have a past history of being not a civilized nation, to develop a weapon of mass destruction, that could possibly team up with somebody like the Al Qaida organization, which would, therefore, then hold us hostage, hold the coalition hostage. We owe it to our children and our children's children to rid the world of terror now, so they can grow up in a free society, a society without fear, a society without the threat of attack on our own homeland.

The best homeland defense policy is to find out terrorists where they live, where they hide, and bring them to justice. And that's what I'm going to do, so long as I am the President of the United States. I picked a good man to lead the homeland security effort. Tom Ridge was the Governor of Pennsylvania.

The last time I was here in the State of North Carolina, I talked about a first-responders initiative, about how the budget I was going to submit to Congress not only was going to make national defense a priority but also that homeland defense would be a priority. I have since done that. We talked about first-responders to make sure that the police and fire had a strategy necessary to respond to emergencies if it were to occur. I'm also talking about a bioterrorism initiative. I'm also talking about a border security initiative.

One of the interesting things I think that the people of North Carolina will appreciate, that I hold in high esteem the United States Coast Guard. We've got a plan to beef up the Coast Guard, to modernize her ships, to make sure the Coast Guard is available around all the coasts of the country to protect the homeland. We've got a better intelligence-sharing system in place. We've got a strategy to defend the homeland of the United States.

And every day I ask the question to the FBI Director and others, "What have you done to make the homeland more secure?" My fellow citizens need to know we're doing everything in our power to protect innocent families.

There's a lot to be done in Washington, as well. Obviously, we've got to fight a recession. My view about the recession is that we'll help people with unemployment checks, and we must. But as Congress tries to figure out ways of how to deal with this, I always want them to remember that people want more than an unemployment check; they want a paycheck. And therefore, we ought to have jobs as a central aspect of any economic recovery plan, how best to create jobs.

What should we do? Well, I thought I did something pretty wise, and that was last year, when we got a sniff that the economy was pretty darn slow, was to fight for a tax relief package that gave people their own money to spend. When people have more money in their pocket to spend, it creates more demand, which means somebody is producing products, which means somebody is getting a job. The more money people have in their pockets to spend in the face of recession, the more likely our economy is going to come out of a recession. And for those in Washington who think they want to roll back the tax relief, they're not going to get to do so. The tax relief was right. And it's important for the American people that we defend tax relief.

But there is more to do. I would hope Congress would pass an economic stimulus package that will encourage investment in plants and equipment. The more investment in plants and equipment, the more likely it is a textile worker is going to find a job. The more incentive there is for somebody to put a new piece of equipment in a factory, the more likely it is somebody is going to work. And so as they debate the stimulus package, it's important not only to remember we want to take care of those who have been affected by the attacks on 9/11, we also want to stimulate jobs, to encourage jobs.

We also—I submitted in my budget a priority for educating the American people, educating our kids. We talked today about the best welfare plan—best to make sure we keep people off welfare, besides helping them find work—is to make sure they're educated. And the State of North Carolina deserves congratulations for having a really good public school system. You were tied with Texas, and that's a big admission for a Texan to say. [*Laughter*]

I want you to know that we passed a good piece of education reform, and it ties in directly to what we're talking about today. It

says, every child matters. We've got to challenge a system that tends to just shuffle children through without regard to whether they can read or write and add and subtract. We need to focus resources on Title I. We'll demand accountability. We'll pass flexibility out of Washington, DC, to the local level. We've got a reading program that understands reading is the new civil right; if you can't read, you can't succeed in the America of the 21st century. This is a great piece of legislation, sponsored by both Republicans and Democrats. It shows what can happen when we put our Nation ahead of political party, which we must do more of in Washington, DC, as far as I'm concerned.

In order to make sure our economy recovers, in order to make sure we've got a balance sheet that is reasonable as we go into the out-years, I want to insist Congress hold the line in spending, that they not get carried away, that they not spend—that what they think sounds like—sounds good is not going to work.

One area in which I'm going to hold the line on the budget, though, is on TANF funds. My budget calls for over $17 billion a year for TANF funds to be block-granted back to States. Now, there's going to be some in Congress that say we've got to reduce the TANF monies, welfare monies, because the caseloads have dropped. I don't think we ought to do that at this time in history. And so the budget I've submitted holds the line on TANF.

On the other hand, I do think we need some reforms, and I want to share with you some of those. But first, let me tell you that there has been great success when it came to welfare reform. We've actually changed the whole culture from dependency to self-sufficiency. And by doing that, the welfare rolls have declined dramatically, and the country's better off for it, but more importantly, so are the human beings.

It's so easy to get caught up in statistics, and forget about behind each number is a person. And today I have the honor of talking about—of hearing from the people involved, the human stories, the real-life stories of people that have overcome incredible obstacles.

I like to tell people, the toughest job in America is a single mom trying to raise her children. That's the hardest hill to climb in this country. And yet, as a result of a collaborative effort of public-private partnership here in Mecklenburg County, a place where government and business teamed up, many people have been moved from dependency upon government to work.

Now, the system worked, but in order for that to happen, it requires a will, a personal determination. Some person has to say, "I can do better and want to do better," just like my introducer, Frances Cunningham, did. She is a single mom with two teenagers. That, in itself, deserves a medal. [*Laughter*] She has started working with the Work First Program, obviously has a job. But I want to quote what she said: "The success of it is, my children see me go to work every day. And that makes them go to school every day, because they see Mama isn't staying at home." The ability for somebody to realize kind of an independent life, less dependent upon government, not only affects that person but also affects a lot of other people, starting with the children—starting with the children.

I met with Michelle Venegas. Michelle is articulate. I told her she speaks better English than I do—[*laughter*]—although she got hired as a translator. She's from Mexico, Tijuana, Mexico. She was working for a company that went out of business. She needed a little transition help. She found it here in Mecklenburg County. By the way, she, herself, is a mom, got a little *ninita*. She went to the county department of social services. She found out they needed someone with Spanish language skills. She's now employed full-time by the department.

Kathleen Collado, I met with her, as well. She's a single mom, recently divorced. She had no high school diploma. Imagine how tough her future looked. She needed to take a step up in life, and she found help. Kathleen was able to get her GED. She polished her interviewing skills and now works for U.S. Airways.

These are stories that are real. But the good news is, in this county and all across America, they have happened time and time again. There are 20,000 businesses nationwide that have helped 1.1 million people go

from welfare to work. It is an essential ingredient of what the future bill ought to look like.

We need to make sure that work is an integral part of any welfare reauthorization, that the cornerstone of a good bill understands that when we help somebody find work—and I emphasize the "help somebody find work"—that leads to more independence, more self-esteem, and more joy and hope. And so, as Congress begins to reauthorize, I want to make sure that work is an integral component and a strong component. As a matter of fact, I believe that within 5 years, 70 percent of the welfare recipients must work. As part of the requirement, 70 percent of people being helped have got to get to work, and we'll help.

The bill must allow for there to be adequate time for training. Of a 5-day work week, 3 could be devoted to work and 2 to education and job training. For the tougher cases, there ought to be time set aside exclusively for job training or drug rehabilitation. And high school moms ought to be allowed to get credit for going to high school at the same time as part of their work requirement. In other words, the system ought to insist upon work but encourage work by making sure people have got the skills necessary to work or the help necessary to make them a responsible person in the workplace.

Secondly, our public policy must encourage families. Research shows that two-parent families are more likely to raise a child that is going to go to high school or college, that a child in a two-parent family is less likely to get addicted to drugs. Now, I understand there are some families that just simply aren't meant to be. I know that. I'm not—I'm wise about that. On the other hand, we ought to aim for a goal, a goal that recognizes the power and importance of two-parent families in America.

And therefore, the budget I'm submitting and the reform that I hope that Congress will insist upon recognizes that premarital counseling can work, conflict resolution after marriage is important, antigambling—help the old man get off the gambling habit will help. Drug and alcohol rehabilitation can be part of an important concept about keeping families together. We've got $300 million—up to 300 million in the budget to encourage parenting and family programs to flourish at the local level.

And as well, I've got $135 million in the budget for abstinence education programs. Now, let me be as candid as I can about this. Abstinence works every time—[*laughter*]—when it comes to making sure somebody may not have an unwanted child or someone picks up sexually transmitted disease. And this society ought to give children the benefit of the doubt. We ought not to assume that our culture is automatically going to lead a child to defy an abstinence education program. We ought to try it. We ought to work hard. We ought to shoot for the ideal in society and not get drug down by the cynics. And so part of making sure that welfare reauthorization is going to achieve objectives is to promote family and to encourage right choices amongst American youth.

Thirdly, we must trust local officials to manage the money necessary to achieve certain objectives and goals. We have got to have flexibility at the Federal level. Tommy understands that. It's one of the main reasons I asked him to become the Secretary of Health and Human Services. He was a Governor; I was a Governor. We understand that the more flexibility there is at the local level, the more possible it is to meet local needs and, therefore, meet local and national objectives, to meet goals.

And so one of the things we're going to ask Congress is not to micromanage the system. There are hundreds of Federal welfare programs. For those of you who work in this line of work, you know what I'm talking about—hundreds of them, many of them with incredible hoops that need to be jumped through in order to be able to access funds. It is not necessary to have hundreds of welfare programs. What's necessary is to make a commitment to set goals, to expect results, and to trust local people in managing the dollars. And that's the spirit of welfare reform.

And we're going to push hard for this initiative in the United States Congress. I can't guarantee 100-percent success. But I can guarantee you, we're going to give it our best shot to make sure that we're able to achieve

local objectives and, therefore, realize a national goal, and that is moving as many people as we can, as compassionately as we can, from welfare to work, helping people help themselves.

And finally, any part of a welfare authorization must understand the power of faith-based organizations and charitable organizations in our society. I have asked for legislation that will encourage charitable giving and, at the same time, allow faith-based organizations to access Federal dollars without discrimination, without causing the faith-based organization to abandon faith. You see, here's what I believe: I believe there are neighborhood healers and helpers all across America who want to love their neighbor just like they love themselves and ought to be encouraged rather than thwarted.

I know you've got a strong faith-based initiative here in Mecklenburg County. I want to applaud you for that. It makes sense to say to church and synagogue and mosque that if you want to help a neighbor in need, we encourage you to do so. It makes sense to recognize that sometimes a drug addict or an alcohol—person hooked on alcohol needs a change of heart in order to change behavior. And that doesn't happen through Government bureaucracies. It happens as a result of people of faith interfacing with neighbors in need.

And so I'm calling on Congress, the Senate—and I talked to Senator Daschle about this this morning, and he wrote a very positive editorial about the need for faith-based programs in our society. I hope they get this legislation passed and to my desk. It is essential that we rally the armies of compassion all across the country.

Yesterday in Washington, DC, I met with a guy hooked on crack cocaine. He found the Lord. He changed his life. He's married. He was a lousy dad; he's now a good dad, upholding his obligations. He feels so much better about himself. And as importantly, he's a part of a program that exists in inner-city Washington, DC, trying to find the next crack cocaine addict, to help that person help themselves.

The fabric—I envision a fabric in our Nation of healers and helpers and faith-based, compassionate people, all reaching out to a neighbor in need. People ask me all the time, "What can I do in the fight against terror?" And the answer is: Do something good.

You see, it's the gathering—what I like to call the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness on a daily basis that stands strong against the evil which attacked our country. It is the ability for our Nation to show its compassionate side through acts and deeds of kindness and the willingness of somebody to put their arm around a child as a mentor and say, "I love you." Or just walking into a neighbor's house, an elderly neighbor's house, a shut-in, and saying, "I care about you. What can I do to help you today?"

This is the strength of the country. This is—we're not trying to reinvent something. We're tapping into the great soul of America. The spirit of our country is one based upon neighborhoods, people helping each other, communities all bound up with one thing in mind, how to make people's lives better.

You know, they hit us; they attacked us; they took life; but they have not been able to dent the spirit of America. We are strong. We are compassionate. We're a loving nation. And as a result, I see a future that is so hopeful and so bright for every citizen who's fortunate enough to call themselves an American.

Thank you for letting me come. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Patrick McCrory of Charlotte; Parks Helms, chairman, Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners; Rodney Carroll, president and chief executive officer, Welfare to Work Partnership; Carroll Gray, president, Charlotte Chamber of Commerce; and Chairman Hamid Karzai of the Afghan Interim Authority. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103–382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89–10), and TANF, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

Remarks at a Fundraiser for Senatorial Candidate Elizabeth Dole and Congressional Candidate Robin Hayes in Charlotte

February 27, 2002

Thank you all very much. Please, be seated. Your salad might get cold. [*Laughter*] Thanks so much for that warm welcome.

It's great to be back in the State of North Carolina. It just seems like I was here a couple of weeks ago—I was. [*Laughter*] I love coming to your State. The people here are wonderful and friendly. I love working the rope line at the airport when people say, "Mr. President, I'm praying for you." I can't tell you how wonderful that makes me feel.

I thank you for your support and your friendship. I thank you for getting ready to send a fabulous woman to the United States Senate named Elizabeth Dole. I appreciate all those who have come to contribute not only to Elizabeth but to my friend Robin Hayes's campaign, but also to the Republican Party of North Carolina.

Somebody said to me the other day—or, actually, asked me today, you know, am I going to campaign? "Here we are in war. Do you think it's all right for the President to go campaign?" I said, "Yes, I do. I think it'd be a lot easier for me to accomplish what I want to accomplish with Denny Hastert as Speaker of the House of Representatives and with Trent Lott as majority leader of the United States Senate."

So I want to thank you all for coming to support two good candidates in the party. I also want to say, although Elizabeth is going to make a great United States Senator, it's been a joy to work with Jesse Helms. He's been a strong voice. And like—you know, Robin is smart enough to send his wife. [*Laughter*] I should have sent mine. [*Laughter*] What a fabulous job she's doing.

You know, when I married her, she was a public school librarian, didn't particularly care for politics—truth be known, politicians. [*Laughter*] And now she has been in a position of such important responsibility, and she's handled her position with such calm and resolve. She's been a wonderful comforter, not only to me but to the country, and I'm so grateful for her and the sacrifices she has made.

We're doing great, by the way. I've never felt stronger in my life. I think it's because my wife is so great. It's also because I happen to be the President of the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth, and this country is united and resolved.

Another reason I feel confident in our ability to accomplish some important missions for the country is, I've assembled a great team. For those of you who have ever run a company or run an organization, you understand what I'm about to say—that you're only as good as your team. And my national security team is strong and capable and experienced, and so is my domestic policy team, with Tommy Thompson playing an integral role. And Tommy, I want to thank you for serving the country, and thank you for being a part of my Cabinet.

We're here today to talk about welfare reform. You do a good job in Mecklenburg County about making sure that businesses are responsible citizens in the county and helping people help themselves by finding them work. And we understand that work is an integral part of any welfare reform, but we also understand that we've got to pass power out of Washington, DC, so the local folks can meet important goals and objectives. And speaking about local folks who we trust, you've got a fine mayor. We appreciate the mayor of Charlotte, and we appreciate his leadership.

And I also want to thank Sue Myrick. She is a fine Member of the United States Congress. Every other word is "Charlotte" when I'm around her. [*Laughter*] She did a great job as mayor.

And speaking about that, Robin Hayes—he needs to go back to Washington, DC. He needs to be reelected for the good of North Carolina, North Carolina workers, and North Carolina businessowners.

And I want to thank you, Barbara, for representing him. We've got—Barbaras have a sweet spot in our heart in the Bush family. And you did a fine job. I completely understand why Robin is not here. He wants to be working on behalf of the North Carolina people, which is what he has done every time

I've met with him. He's one of the best grassroots politicians I've ever met. He's the kind of fellow that, when you're driving through the district, he says, "There's old Joe over there. He owns that business. And there's this fellow over there. I got to know him when I went to shake hands with him."

He also stood strong for the textile industry. When it became clear that there was going to be some trade negotiations going on, he said, "I want to make sure textiles are not dealt out of the mix this time." And because of his leadership, textiles have not been dealt out of the mix.

The Secretary of Commerce was in your State the other day and made it clear that when it comes to trade, we're for fair trade for U.S. products. And I want to thank Robin for his leadership. And the North Carolina people ought to be thanking him for his leadership, as well.

And I can't wait to work with Elizabeth Dole. It's important this State send her to Washington, DC. It's important that you have somebody in Washington that when she calls over to the White House, they answer the phone. [*Laughter*] She's been a long-time friend. I trust her judgment. I know the integrity she'll bring to the office.

I've been so impressed about how hard she is working. It's so easy to come into a State and take things for granted. That's not Elizabeth Dole's style. She is going to out-work anybody who's running for the United States Senate because she loves the State of North Carolina. She's always loved North Carolina, and she's going to represent you with class and dignity in the United States Senate.

And we've got an important agenda in Washington. We're defending our country. You know, the enemy attacked us thinking we were soft, thinking our culture was corrupt, thinking we'd just kind of roll over and say, "Well, you know, okay, fine. We'll figure out if we can sue them." [*Laughter*] Man, did they make a mistake. They found a nation that's resolved. They have found out that we will defend freedom. They understand now that this Nation is slow to anger, but when angered, we will chase them down, and we'll bring them to justice.

I'm so proud of the United States military. For those of you who've got relatives in the military—I met one young wife whose husband was in the 101st—I want to thank you all for your sacrifice to our country, as well. And the budget I've submitted to the United States Congress clearly reflects the need to defend our country. It is the largest defense increase since Ronald Reagan was President of the United States. It says this: that if we put our troops in harm's way, if we ask young men and women to defend America, our allies, and our freedom, they must have the best equipment, the best training, and the best pay possible.

We have put together a mighty coalition of freedom-loving nations, nations all resolved to rout out terror wherever it may exist. It's going to require our Nation to be steadfast and strong in order to make sure that coalition stays focused. And it's easy for a nation, for a leadership, to assume that position when we've got a nation that is resolved and patient and determined.

I'm proud of the military, and I'm equally as proud of the people of the United States of America. We understand what is at stake. We understand our freedoms are now being challenged. We understand that civilization itself is under attack, and we will not relent. We stand strong in the face of the evil ones, and we will be victorious, make no mistake about it.

The American people understand it's going to take time to accomplish our objective. We're just in the first theater in the war against terror. We were able to uphold a new doctrine which said, if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you try to hide a terrorist, you, yourself, are just as guilty as the terrorist. The Taliban, one of the most repressive governments in the history of the world, has found out what we meant when we said, "We will hold you accountable for harboring terrorists."

Our military, they're not conquerors; they're liberators. We liberated women and children from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind, and I'm so proud of the accomplishment in Afghanistan.

And our troops are still in harm's way. We're now in a dangerous phase in accomplishing our objectives. After all, we're chasing down people who, on the one hand, send

young boys to their death in the name of religion and, on the other hand, hide in caves. But there's no cave deep enough. They can't hide long enough, because I'm patient, and so is the United States military. We will take however long it takes to hunt them down and to bring them to justice. And that's exactly what they deserve, the justice of a freedom-loving nation, a justice of a nation which will defend herself at all costs. The price of freedom is expensive, but we'll pay the price necessary to defend our freedoms.

But history has called us into something larger than just one organization. We must defend ourselves and, more importantly, our children and our children's children against future terrorist attacks. And so the cause goes way beyond one person or one country. Our cause is to rout out terror wherever it hides, is to rally a coalition and insist upon results, insist that we bring terrorists to justice.

It also recognizes a nightmare scenario, a scenario which recognizes that great harm could come to freedom-loving nations if we ever allow a terrorist organization to hook up or become an alliance with a transparent nation which develops weapons of mass destruction. We cannot allow some of the world's worst leaders to develop the world's worst weapons, to hold America and our friends hostage. This administration will rout out terror wherever it exists and will hold people accountable if they harbor a terrorist or made up a terrorist or threaten the United States with terrorist weapons. [*Applause*] Thank you. Thank you all. Sit down.

My most important job is to protect innocent Americans. The best homeland defense is to pursue terrorists overseas. The best way to secure the homeland for the long run is to be successful. In the meantime, however, I found a good man, the Governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Ridge, who I've known for a long time, a friend of Tommy's and mine, to set up a national strategy to defend the homeland. We've got a first-responder initiative that's strong, that basically will rally police and fire departments at the local level to respond if there ever is a problem.

We're strengthening the Coast Guard to make our coasts more secure. We're going to make sure our borders are secure by understanding who's coming in and who's going out of the United States of America. We're doing everything in our power to rally the resources of law enforcement and intelligence communities to protect the American people. I'm proud of the efforts of the law enforcement level—at the Federal and State and local level. They will stay on alert so long as there is a threat to the United States of America.

And we've got a job to do at home, as well. You know, I was campaigning in Chicago, and somebody asked me, "Is there ever any time where the budget might have to go into deficit?" I said, "Only if we were at war or had a national emergency or were in recession." [*Laughter*] Little did I realize we'd get the trifecta. [*Laughter*] But we're fine.

You know, I campaigned on tax relief because I knew it was the right thing to do. It became even more apparent it was the right thing to do when our economy started slowing down, before I got sworn in as President. Tax relief, fortunately for the American economy, passed the United States Congress. By giving people more of their own money to spend, it'll help invigorate the economy.

Now, there are some in Washington who say, "Well, maybe we ought not to have tax relief. Maybe you ought to create uncertainty about the tax relief plan." Forget it. That's not going to happen. Tax relief for the American people happened at the right time. It was the right thing to do, and I stand strongly in support of giving people their own money back.

And for the good of a lot of people in North Carolina, in particular, the North Carolina farmers and ranchers, we put the death tax on its way to extinction. And you'll hear them screaming about the budget up there. But if they're worried about the budget, what they need to do is fund the priorities I've sent up there—national defense, homeland security, education—and then hold the line on spending everywhere else, and we'll be just fine.

And speaking about education, I'm proud that we passed a good bill, really good education bill. I know it shocked you, and I can guarantee it shocked the people in Crawford, Texas, to hear me say nice things about Ted Kennedy. [*Laughter*] He deserved nice things said about him in this case because

he got the bill unstuck in the United States Senate. It is a bill which says the Republican Party understands that we've got to educate every child, that no child should be left behind, that we strongly believe in accountability in our public school systems, that we believe that poor children can read and write and add and subtract, that we insist that there be local control of schools, and we understand that reading is the new civil right for every child in America. This party now stands squarely with the children of America, to say that everybody ought to be educated, and we support our public schools, and we think they can do a better job, and the Federal role, while needed, is limited.

I was proud of the bipartisan spirit. We need more bipartisanship in Washington, DC. We need less people worried about their own personal political careers and more people focused on what's best for the United States of America.

You know, I was very impressed today by what I saw on the job training program. It really reinforces in my mind that the best initiatives are always those that kind of spring out of the hearts of people who really care more about their communities than anybody in a distant Government could possibly care. And it reminds me of what I try to tell people when they say, "What can I do to help America? What can I do to help fight in the war against terror?" Well, if you're not wearing a uniform, I've got a suggestion for you: Love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. It's kind of a universal admonition. It doesn't pertain to one religion or another, but it's pretty good advice, it seems like to me. Because if you're worried about fighting evil, one way to do so is to do some good. One way this Nation can stand up to forces of evil is through the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness which take place every day, not because of Government but because a loving citizen has said to him or herself, "What can I do to help? What can I do to make my community a better place?"

Every time somebody in America walks next door to see a shut-in and says, "I care about you," that's part of the momentum of kindness that I was talking about. If you mentor a child and say to that child, "I love you," teach a child how to read, you really are standing in the face of terror and evil.

Now, the great strength of the country is really not in the halls in Washington; it's in the hearts and souls of the people of North Carolina and Texas and every other State in the Union. And my job is to capture the spirit of this country and to rally the strength, to stand tall in the face of evil. And there's no doubt we can do this in this Nation.

I believe that we're on the verge of changing a culture that will have lasting benefits. Not only do I believe that what we pursue overseas will make the world more peaceful for generations to come, I believe that what's taking place in America today could make America a more compassionate and kind place for years to come, as well.

A lot of us grew up during a time when the culture said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." I believe this Nation is on the cusp of welcoming in a period of personal responsibility, a responsibility era, an era which says each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life. And that starts with moms and dads understanding their most important job is to love their children with all their heart and all their soul. It also means, in a period of responsibility, that we love a neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourselves.

Personal responsibility extends to the corporate world as well, by the way. Corporate America has got the responsibility to disclose all assets and liabilities for shareholders and employees. It's also got a responsibility to treat the employees with respect and help. It's like the corporate responsibility I saw today when corporate Charlotte was working to help people find jobs and find work, understanding that in work they find dignity.

Now, I absolutely believe that America is going to make some right choices in life. And those choices collectively will help change the culture, and we'll be better off for it. The enemy hit us. They thought we were weak and soft. Instead, they found a nation that is strong and determined, but a nation, as well, that is compassionate and decent, a nation that will defend the values of freedom, but a nation that will also make sure the doors of hope and justice and opportunity

are open to every person who's fortunate enough to be called an American.

Thank you for coming. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:28 p.m. in the James Richardson Ball Room at the Charlotte Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Patrick McCrory of Charlotte; and Barbara Hayes, wife of Representative Robin Hayes. Representative Hayes is a candidate for reelection in North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District.

Remarks to the National Summit on Retirement Savings

February 28, 2002

Thank you all very much. I appreciate that warm welcome. It's a pleasure to be here with friends and those who are promoting an important cause, and that is promoting the security and dignity of Americans who are in retirement.

Americans can help secure their own future by saving. Government must support policies that promote and protect saving. And saving is the path to independence for Americans in all phases of life, and we must encourage more Americans to take that path.

I want to thank the Secretary of Labor, Elaine Chao, for helping put on this conference, and I appreciate her service. I appreciate the Director of the Small Business Administration for being here; Hector, thank you for coming. It is good to see at least one fellow Texan, Sam Johnson. I appreciate you being here, Sammy; thank you for coming. And I appreciate Bill Roth, the former Senator from Delaware, for being here, as well. Thank you, Senator, for coming today.

Just over a hundred years ago, at the turn of the last century, the average life expectancy in America was only 47 years. Today, that number has increased by three full decades. This amazing advance in the health of Americans is also profoundly changing our society. Americans who retire today may have decades—decades—of healthy life before them.

This is time to volunteer, making seniors one of the greatest resources of compassion in America. This is time for family, to pass on values to grandchildren and to strengthen the bonds between grandparents and family members. And increasingly, retirement is a time of new beginnings, a time to travel and explore, a time to take up new hobbies, and a time to take up new careers.

Some 80 percent of baby boomers—I happen to be one—[*laughter*]—say they plan to work at least part-time in retirement. And smart employers will be wise to use their experience and their competence.

The choices seniors make in retirement should not be limited by arbitrary dates or obsolete stereotypes. Increasingly, the choices of seniors will only be limited by two things, the state of their health and the state of their savings.

Because the nature of retirement is changing, the needs of retirement are changing, as well. Older Americans now require a retirement nest egg large enough for decades of enjoyment and ambition. As medicine increases the length of life, adequate savings must increase the options we have on longer lives.

Saving is never easy; it's hard for some to do. But it's always worthwhile. Particularly when you think about the power of compounding interest. The power of compound interest is one of the great advantages of American citizens, and they must learn to use it. If a worker starts saving just $20 a week at age 22 and earns a 5.5 percent real interest rate on the investment, that adds up to a nest egg of nearly $180,000 by age 65.

This summit was created by Congress to educate workers and citizens about the power and rewards of saving, and I want to thank you for participating. You've accomplished a great deal, but there's much more to do.

Americans are saving too little, often dangerously too little. The average 50-year-old in America has less than $40,000 in personal financial wealth. The average American retires with only enough savings to provide 60 percent of his former annual income. This problem is especially acute for women and minorities.

We must encourage, for all our people, the security and independence provided by savings. I want America to be an ownership society, a society where a life of work becomes a retirement of independence.

Savings start as an individual responsibility, but Government can help by expanding the rewards of saving and by strengthening protections for saving. Last year, the Congress passed and I proudly signed powerful new incentives for retirement savings. Many of you in this room were involved in that effort, and I want to thank you.

We relaxed the restrictions on how much workers can invest in their individual retirement accounts and 401(k) plans. Last year's tax relief plan allowed workers over the age of 50 to make overpayments to their retirement plans. This is especially important for women who take time out of the labor force to stay at home with their children.

We passed some important reforms to give workers more choices and more rights. We created a new kind of 401(k) that allows workers to pay their taxes now and make tax-free withdrawals when they retire, just like the way the Roth IRA works. And we required companies to vest their employees' retirement rights more quickly. Your retirement money becomes yours faster, now more than ever.

And finally, we made it easier to roll over retirement savings from one account to another. We know that American workers change jobs more frequently today than they used to. This means that people are seeing opportunity, and they're seizing it. But if workers are going to move, their retirement savings need to move with them without unnecessary bureaucracy and unnecessary paperwork.

Thanks to the 2001 tax relief program, our Tax Code is now friendlier to saving than it has been in a long time. Not only am I proud of cutting taxes, I'm proud of reforming the savings, and I'm proud of the good work that Congress did on this matter.

But there's still more to do. Even when people are saving enough, they need to feel more secure about the laws protecting their savings. In recent months, we've seen how workers can lose a lifetime's worth of savings if their company were to fail. So my administration has proposed reforms to make sure that the money Americans put away in their working years grows safely, so it is available in their retirement years.

More than 40 million workers own 401(k) accounts totaling over $1.8 trillion in assets. Many of these assets have been contributed by employers who match their workers' own savings. We know that employers contribute more when they have the option to give company stock as well as cash, and that option ought to remain as positive for American workers. But a worker should also have more freedom to choose how to invest their retirement savings.

Companies that contribute stock to employee 401(k)s should not be permitted to lock their employees into owning that stock for years and years. My proposal will allow workers to sell company stock and diversify into other investment options after 3 years in their own company's plan. We need action to give workers the right to put their savings—to put their eggs in more than one basket.

Another important reform addresses the issue of blackouts, times when employees are not free to change or access their retirement accounts. When companies black-out a pension plan, they temporarily take away a worker's freedom to choose for themselves. Workers should be given a 30-day notice before any blackout period begins, and company officers should not be allowed to sell their own company stock when workers cannot. What's fair on the top floor should be fair on the shop floor.

To make good investment decisions, workers need sound advice and timely information. Employers should be required to provide updates on workers' retirement account values every 3 months. And we should change current law to remove the threat of lawsuits from employers who provide sound third-party investment advice.

All these measures will help build faith in America's pension system, and I urge Congress to act. I want to thank Senators Tim Hutchison and Chuck Grassley, and Representatives Boehner, Portman, and Cardin, for their bipartisan efforts to put forward good, commonsense legislation that seeks to achieve many of these pension reform principles.

Every American deserves to be an owner in the American Dream. That dream includes a sound pension plan and adequate

private savings, and it is ultimately completed by Social Security reform. Some people like their Social Security exactly the way it is, and they'll be able to keep it exactly the way it is. But for younger workers who want to take advantage of the power of compounding interest, we should allow for personal retirement accounts.

Today, Social Security is not a personal savings program. Retirees' benefits are paid directly from the taxes paid each year by current workers. The average return on Social Security is less than 2 percent. And in the long run, Social Security can pay retirees less than 30 percent of what they earned before retiring, and that's not good enough as we head into the 21st century.

We can do better, and a lot of people know this. Someone retiring today after 45 years of work would be entitled to a monthly benefit of $1,128 a month from Social Security. If that same retiree—if those Social Security taxes had been invested in the stock market over the last 45 years, during the same period of time, that person would now have a nest egg of $590,000, or income of more than $3,700 a month.

Because there will be an expanding number of retirees for Social Security to support in the future, we must apply the power of savings, investing, and compound interest to the challenges of Social Security by introducing personal retirement accounts into the system. Americans would own these assets. After all, it is their money. They would see more retirement income, and that's necessary as people live longer lives. And as importantly, they would be able to pass these accounts on to their children.

Franklin Roosevelt told the U.S. Congress in 1935 that his goals for Social Security included providing a secure retirement to American workers and making sure all Americans could build their personal wealth. We must dedicate ourselves to both those goals.

At a time when older Americans have longer lives and more options than ever before, we need to ensure they have access not just to a monthly check but to personal wealth. And I mean all Americans, not just a few but all Americans, especially women and minorities who are often shortchanged by the current Social Security system.

Robert Johnson, the CEO of Black Entertainment Television, explains it this way, "African-Americans die earlier, therefore receiving less in the form of Social Security payouts. One of the ways to address this is through the use of wealth-generating private accounts that form part of an estate opportunity for African-Americans." And Lea Abdnor, a member of the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security, as was Mr. Johnson, said, "I believe very strongly that we have to give women the opportunity to create ownership and wealth for the first time." And I couldn't agree more.

My administration is working to expand growth and opportunity in our economy. That's why we cut the taxes. And we've got to make sure opportunity is available as a result of people being able to own something, own their own money so they can manage it themselves, own their own portfolio, have the capacity to generate wealth. The generation of wealth should not be limited to a few in our society; it ought to be an opportunity for everybody. There's nothing better than providing the incentive to say, "This is my asset base. I own it. I will live on it in retirement, and I will then pass it on to somebody in my own family."

If you own something in America, you own a stake in America's future. And a good retirement vision, a good retirement future says that we must reform Social Security, not only for the good of the system but, as importantly, for the good of American workers who work all their life so that they can have an asset base to call their own.

So as you continue to meet, I hope that you will think not only about the short-term issues we face but how best to make sure that the retirement promises are kept, and how to make sure that as we devise—come up with new systems and new structures, that we fundamentally change America for the better, that we make the system open, and that opportunity extends its reach throughout every neighborhood. It is such a wonderful opportunity for the country, and I hope you join me in seizing it.

I want to thank you for giving me the chance to come by. Elaine is right; I do worry about the security of the American people.

I worry about the security of those who retire. And I want you to know every day I'm worried about the homeland security, too. Every day we wake up—I wake up and go into the beautiful Oval Office and read about threats to the United States. And it reminds me that the security of this country is my most important job.

And I want to assure you all that our administration is doing everything that we possibly can to make sure innocent Americans do not lose their lives here at home. We're running down every lead. We're following every hint, every suggestion, every opportunity to chase down some possible clue of an attack. We are doing it. And I'm proud of our law enforcement officers at the Federal, State, and local level for their diligence.

But I also want to remind you that in order to make sure the homeland is secure as it can possibly be for our children and grandchildren, that we must hunt down the killers and would-be killers, terrorists, Al Qaida terrorists, and bring them to justice. This is going to require more time than people may want. It's going to require a patient and determined nation.

But having traveled around the country some, having had a chance to listen to the American people, I'm proud of the fact that our Nation is patient and is determined. Because our Nation understands that we fight for freedom, and any time our freedom is challenged, we stand strong in the face of those who would take away our freedom.

Our military is making great strides. I'm proud of the U.S. military. And as fellow Americans, I will assure you that so long as I'm the President, I will do whatever it takes to protect the American people.

I want to thank you for letting me come by. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:23 p.m. in the Presidential Ballroom at the Capital Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Robert L. Johnson, chairman and chief executive officer, BET Holdings, Inc.; and Leanne Abdnor, former executive director, Alliance for Retirement Security.

Remarks Following a Roundtable Discussion on Retirement Savings and an Exchange With Reporters in Des Moines, Iowa

March 1, 2002

The President. I want to thank Bill and the employees here at Printers for sharing with me their thoughts on the advantages and the importance of 401(k) plans. The 401(k) plan allows a person to invest his or her own money in a savings account which will enhance their asset base in their retirement years.

We talked about how important it is to have an ownership society, where people own assets. We talked about the importance of 401(k) plans for small businesses in America. And Bill very wisely has set up a really constructive and interesting plan, one of which the owners—the whole concept is that this is the workers' money, that this is Diana's money or Judy's money, and they ought to be trusted in the management of that money.

And that's what this plan does here, it gives instant access to the Web site. They can make investment decisions, obviously, within the guidelines of the law. Now, there are some reforms that are necessary for privately held businesses, such as allowing for more investment advice to the workers, without fear of being sued.

But they've got a very constructive plan here. I want to thank Bill and thank you all for sharing with me the vibrancy of your 401(k) plan. A little later on I'm going to talk again about some of the reforms we're proposing in Congress, as well as some of the expansions to the 401(k) that we enacted into law during the last—during the tax debate.

I'll be glad to answer a couple of questions. Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Action Against Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, what did you make of Senator Daschle's comments yesterday with the war—Mullah Omar and Usama bin Laden are still out there?

The President. Well, I think most Americans understand that it's going to—it's going to take a while to achieve all our objectives, that by far the vast majority of Americans are patient. They know, when you're looking

for one person who may be hiding in a cave, it may take a while. But what Usama bin Laden has got to understand, if we haven't already gotten him—I don't know where he is. But I think he now understands that this patient and determined Nation is going to hunt him down, that he can't hide long enough.

And the other point I'd like to make is, as I've said repeatedly—and most Americans understand this, as well—that our war against terror is far greater than one person, that in order to defend freedom and protect our children and our children's children, that we must rout out terror wherever it tries to hide.

And that's why we are working with our coalition on an active basis to deny safe harbor, to disrupt financial plans. And the American people are beginning to see that we have been active beyond Afghanistan. We've obviously got activities interested—Philippines, activities in Georgia. And we're hunting him down. And I'm real proud of our military. We've been at this for about 6 months, and we've been very successful in a quick period of time.

Continuity of Government/Yemen

Q. Mr. President, is there a shadow Government in place since September 11th? And——

The President. A shadowy Government or a shadow Government? [*Laughter*]

Q. A shadow Government. And as part of the antiterror effort, are you considering granting some form of aid to Yemen?

The President. Let's see, there are two questions there. The first one is, we have—we take the continuity-of-Government issue very seriously, because our Nation was under attack. And I still take the threats that we receive from Al Qaida killers and terrorists very seriously.

I have an obligation as the President, and my President has an obligation to the American people to provide—to put measures in place that, should somebody be successful in attacking Washington, DC, there's an ongoing Government. That's one reason why the Vice President was going to undisclosed locations. This is serious business, and we take it seriously.

As far as Yemen goes, Yemen is a country that—I've had a very good discussion with the President of Yemen. I made it clear to him, as well as other Presidents of nations, that you're either with us, or you're not with us, and that if you're with us, we expect results.

I don't know if you remember my speech to the United Nations, where I said, thanks for all the condolences and flowers; now is the time for action, that if you're a part of our coalition, we expect you to work diligently and work hard to arrest Al Qaida killers. Al Qaida members are people who aid and abet Al Qaida. And the Yemen Government is responding.

I've oftentimes asked, what about—you know, what are the particulars you're doing, in a particular government? I'm not going to talk about ongoing operations. I will just tell you that wherever we find an Al Qaida presence, we work with the government to rout them out. In other words, this war against terror is far broader than Afghanistan, and we're making good progress.

Energy Taskforce Documents

Q. Sir, some of the legal actions seeking documents from the energy task force have been successful. It looks like some of the documents are going to be released. Are you concerned——

The President. That's fine with me.

Q. Are you concerned about some of the information that's out there?

The President. No.

Q. Will it raise doubts about your energy plan?

The President. Not at all, no. I'm not concerned at all. As a matter of fact, I hope the Energy Department gets the documents out there as quickly as they possibly can.

I am concerned, though, about a Congress trying to make privileged the private conversations the President or the Vice President has. In other words, I receive advice, and in order for people to give me sound advice, that information ought not to be public. Somebody is not going to walk into the Oval Office thinking that the conversation is going to be public and give me good, sound advice.

And therefore, when the GAO overstepped its bounds to try to get advice given to the Vice President and me, we resisted. But in terms of the honoring the FOIA request, the freedom of information request to our Departments, in which different groups are legally entitled to do, you bet.

And we received interesting advice from a lot of people on our energy plan. First of all, we're the first administration to put forth an energy plan. And this Nation needs an energy plan. The more dependent we are on foreign sources of crude oil, the less secure our Nation will be. And it's about time somebody stepped forth with an energy plan.

And we listened to energy companies, which seems to make sense. If you're developing an energy plan, one place to start is to listen to people who know something about the business. We also listened to environmental groups. We listened to people that were concerned about how to create more conservation.

And the end result was a plan that is now public, and every American has got the capacity to pick it up and read it and decide whether they think it makes sense or not. The House of Representatives evidently thought so, because they passed the bill. And for the good of the country, the Senate needs to pass an energy bill that encourages conservation, exploration, and modernizes the capacity and the abilities of the country to move electricity from one part of the country to the next.

Last question.

Continuity of Government

Q. Sir, back to the issue of the shadow Government. The reports out today said that one reason why the shadow Government was authorized was that there was a threat of nuclear attack by Al Qaida. Is that something that is still a significant threat?

The President. We take every threat seriously. And until this country has routed out terrorists wherever they try to hide, we're not safe.

Now, we're doing everything we can to protect the American people, and the American people understand that. They know that our Federal law enforcement, State law enforcement, local law enforcement are working day and night to protect the American people. I'm proud of the efforts. I believe—I know we've made America a tougher place to attack than before. It is much harder for somebody to get on an airplane to attack again. We are taking—you know, we've got better intelligence-gathering. We're doing everything in our power to protect the American people.

And I will tell you, there are people still in this world who want to harm America. And we're going to chase them down. And it's going to take a while. But I am a determined person, and as I told the American people, I'm not going to relent. I believe we've been called by history to lead the world. I believe this great, strong, compassionate country has been given a unique moment. And I'm not going to miss the moment, by leading the world to a more freedom-loving world. And the American people understand that, and they're solid behind this administration's efforts to defend freedom.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. in the production control room at The Printer, Inc. In his remarks, he referred to William C. Benskin, president, and Diane Grimes and Judy Ford, employees, The Printer, Inc.; and President Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen. A reporter referred to Mullah Omar, former head of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to Employees of The Printer, Inc., in Des Moines

March 1, 2002

Well, thanks for that warm welcome. It's nice to be back in Iowa. I spent some quality days here in Iowa. [*Laughter*] I used to tell people that Iowa was the friendliest State that I campaigned in, and I want to thank you for the hospitality, coming back as your President.

I appreciate the Governor being here. Governor, thanks for taking time. We had the honor of hosting the Governors—the national Governors at the White House last Sunday night. I'd just gotten in from China,

rented my tux, and had the Governors over. [*Laughter*] But it was good to see your Governor, and thanks for being here. I'm honored you're here.

And I also appreciate so many friends and members of the Iowa House who are here. I see my friend Mary Kramer. I see the speaker. I want to thank you both for coming. I want to thank all the members. I hope the Governor is doing everything you tell him to do. [*Laughter*] That's not the way it's supposed to work.

I appreciate very much Leonard Boswell, the Congressman, for being here, and I want to appreciate my friend Tom Latham, as well, for traveling with me—two fine Members of the United States Congress. Anyway, I thank all the elected officials for coming. I appreciate a chance to say hello.

I also want to thank the Benskins for inviting me here. I didn't realize Bill—I guess the employees probably didn't realize it either—he's such a silver-tongued devil. [*Laughter*]

But I appreciate so very much the chance to visit with Bill and some of the employees. Let me tell you what my first impression is, is that this is a company that deeply cares about the people who work here. And Bill and Marty understand that if you treat the folks that work with you well, you'll more likely have a good product, that if you care about the future of the people who are doing the work for your company, the company is going to have a culture of success. And I could feel that instantly when I came here, and I want to congratulate the Benskins.

See, small business is the lifeblood of the American economy. Most new jobs are created in small businesses. I'm a big believer in the entrepreneurial spirit. I'm a big believer in understanding that the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which small businesses can flourish and people like the Benskins can realize their dream and, in turn, provide good, steady, honorable employment for the people who work in this company. So I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come and talk about security.

Before I talk about retirement security, I see people wearing our uniform—the uniform—and I've got to talk about national security from a defense perspective. I submitted a budget to the United States Congress that sets this priority: We will defend freedom at any cost.

The budget I submitted says basically this: If you wear the uniform of the United States of America and you're fighting to defend our freedom, you deserve the best equipment, the best training, another pay raise. And Congress best heed that call.

We're in for a long and difficult struggle when it comes to fighting terrorists. It's long and difficult because, unlike other wars, these kind of faceless folks, nameless folks hide and burrow into countries that may be weak. They hide in the caves. These are the kinds of people who send young advocates, young believers to their suicide, and they, themselves, hide.

When they attacked our country, they really didn't understand America. They thought we were soft. They thought we had a culture that was so materialistic that nobody in this land would be willing to sacrifice for something greater than ourselves. And they made a huge mistake.

I made it absolutely clear to the world, a couple of points: One, that if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists who attacked America, and you'll be held accountable. And that's exactly what happened to the Taliban. They wish they'd never heard of America.

But our country showed up not as conquerors but as liberators. Our United States military liberated a nation from the most barbaric—one of the most barbaric regimes history has shown, and now young girls get to go to school, and women are free. And I can't tell you how proud I am of the efforts of the United States military in Afghanistan.

I also made it clear to our coalition and our country that this is a new kind of war, that we've got to think about our children's future, that we can't rest until we have routed out terrorists wherever they try to hide, wherever they think they can accumulate and gather to hurt us again.

Listen, we're doing everything we can to protect the homeland of the country. Our law enforcement is on alert. Our FBI has got thousands of agents now chasing down every

possible lead, every hint. Every opportunity to make the country safe, we're seizing it. We've got a national strategy in place to have a good first-time responders initiative. I know the Governor is working on that, along with local law enforcement officials, to make sure that if we're attacked, there is a good response mechanism in place. We're working on a bioterrorism initiative. We're strengthening our borders. We're going to have a better understanding of who's coming in and who's going out of the United States of America. And we've got better intelligence-sharing. We're doing everything we can.

But the best way to secure the homeland is to chase down those that would harm us and bring them to justice, and that is precisely what the United States of America is going to do. It doesn't matter how long it takes; it doesn't matter where we have to go. We will protect freedom, and this administration will protect the innocent lives of American citizens.

I'm confident the congressional appropriators will not let our military down and will not let the American people down, because the American people are united and patient and strong and prepared to defend freedom. I can't tell you how proud I am of our country, how proud I am of those who understand the task ahead.

I also understand that part of my job is to battle a recession, and I spent a lot of time here in Iowa talking about the need for tax relief. And we passed tax relief right about the right time, because the best way to battle an economic slowdown is to get people your own money back so you can spend it. And as you spend it, it encourages new products and jobs.

There are some in Washington who want to argue that we shouldn't go on with tax relief that we passed. They're reading the wrong economic textbooks. They are mistaken. Tax relief is good for American workers, and tax relief is good for the American economy.

I know we need to take care of workers whose lives were affected as a result of the terrorist attacks on America. We need to extend unemployment benefits, and we need to help with health care. And I've laid out an initiative to do that. The House of Representatives passed a good bill to do that.

But people want more than an unemployment check in America; they want a paycheck. And what people in Washington ought to be asking is how—what do we do to create more jobs so people can find work; what does it require? And one of the things that I think needs to happen is, we need a stimulus bill, an economic growth bill, a jobs bill that will encourage more investment in plant and equipment. If companies invest more in plant and equipment, companies are more likely to hire more workers. We need a stimulus bill out of Washington, DC.

And we need a good farm bill to help with jobs. And I'm looking forward to working with Congress to get a good farm bill, one that recognizes a couple of things: One, farming is an incredibly important part of our economy. It's a huge industry in America. And the more vibrant the farm economy is, the more vibrant our national economy will be.

Secondly, we've got to think about value-added processing when it comes to agriculture. I believe in ethanol. I believe ethanol is good for the quality of the air. I believe ethanol is important for the agricultural sector of our economy. I think it makes sense, and we've got to explore additional ways.

We've got to have a farm bill that provides a safety net but doesn't encourage overproduction. And at the same time, we must open up markets for Iowa corn growers and soybean growers. When I was in China, I spent a lot of time talking to the Chinese leadership, saying, "Buy those Iowa soybeans. You said you would do so. Open your markets." Because the more markets are open around the world for food products, the more likely it is American farmers, who happen to be the best at growing food in the world, are going to be able to sell their products. We ought to be feeding the world because we're the best at growing food. And so I want a good farm bill, and I expect to get one here pretty quick. And I look forward to signing it.

And also, we need an energy bill. Listen, we import over 50 percent of our energy from overseas. And that doesn't make sense.

We have to do it because we're not conserving enough, nor we are producing enough. For the good of the national security of our country, we ought to encourage more exploration in an environmentally friendly way on American soil. We ought to be less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil.

And I also want to talk about retirement security today. And I came here not only because I wanted to herald the importance of small business in our society but because this company has a good 401(k) plan. A good 401(k) plan has got some features to it, one, that there is an encouragement for people to save. And Bill was telling me that one of the smart things they did was they put a certain amount of money in everybody's 401(k) plans to begin the process, and everybody said, "What is a 401(k) plan?" It got everybody's attention when they saw they had a little money, something set aside for them.

A good plan is one that—where the company says it's to your advantage to put as much money as you can away when you're younger and understand the power of compounding interest rates. In other words, watching that money grow on a tax-free basis makes a lot of sense. And the workers here at The Printer, Inc., understand that.

You see, we're going to have to encourage more savings in America because people are going to live longer lives. I mean, you and I, the baby boomers, if we behave ourselves, will live way beyond the average lifespan of 20 to 30 years ago. And I don't know about you, but I plan to be active after I've reached the so-called retirement age. And therefore, it is to our advantage to start putting more money aside early so we've got more money to spend and to live on later on.

And the 401(k) is a great way to encourage savings. And Bill was telling me, there's no guarantees, but on bonus years it goes in the 401(k)s, which is a way to encourage workers to pay attention to the plan.

He also tells me that there's a Web page designed for instant access to your money. This isn't the Government's money, by the way. This is your money; this is the workers' money; and you ought to be trusted with your own money. And a 401(k) recognizes who owns the money. And a good company is one that provides the instant access to accounting of your money, so you can see how it's growing. And then you have the option, obviously, within the law, to make investment decisions that you think is important.

Now, one issue that I am concerned about is that a company like right here cannot offer sound investment advice, third-party advice to the workers, because they're afraid to get sued. Now, that doesn't make any sense to me, that if on the one hand a business such as this sets up a 401(k) plan and encourages investment, that they can't bring a third-party adviser to sit down with the workers, to give people objective advice as to what's happening in the marketplace or what makes sense, without fear of lawsuits. We've got too many lawsuits in our society, to begin with. And it doesn't make any sense to force workers not to be able to have good advice because somebody is afraid of getting sued.

And so it seems like, to me, it makes sense for Congress to help reform pension laws by making it easier for people such as Bill to get good advice for the workers, without fear of some junk lawsuit or some throwaway lawsuit.

And so I'm proud of what's happening here in this company, and I know that we need to do more when it comes to encouraging savings. And we did some good stuff in the tax relief—the tax cut—tax relief bill I talked about last year. Let me tell you about some of the reforms we made to encourage others to save more.

One, we relaxed the restrictions on how much workers can invest in their individual retirement accounts and 401(k) plans; in other words, made it easier for people to invest.

Two, it allows people over the age of 50 to catch up, to put more money into their retirement fund. And why would that happen? Well, somebody might have been laid off for a while. Or, if you happen to be a woman and you stayed at home for a while to raise your kids and came back into the workplace late, you ought to be allowed to catch up. You ought to be allowed to put more money in to make sure your 401(k) was sound and whole.

We have—as well, we've reduced the tax burden on small businesses who want to start

a 401(k) plan. As Bill will tell you if you were to ask him, it's pretty expensive to start one of these plans. You've got to hire a lawyer; you've got to hire an accountant. There are some startup costs. And a lot of small businesses take a look at the startup costs, and they say, "What the heck do I want to spend money on this for," and therefore don't. And the workers lose out on a fantastic opportunity.

And so it makes sense for the Government to make it easier for the small businesses to be able to deduct the cost of such startups on the tax credit basis, so that we encourage more 401(k) plans in America and, therefore, encourage more savings. The more savings there are, as Americans grow older, the more likely it is we'll have a vibrant society where people are more productive, more happy, and more healthy.

I also am deeply concerned about pension plan abuse. I'm worried about what's taking place, what we've seen in the newspapers here in America. First of all, there's such a thing as corporate responsibility. We've seen that here in this company, people responsible for the employees. Corporate America has a responsibility to disclose all the assets and liabilities of their companies.

As well, we need to make sure that workers don't lose everything if their company were to fail. In other words, there needs to be some safeguards in some of these 401(k) plans, particularly as it relates to publicly traded companies. And let me cite some of the reforms I think that Congress ought to pass.

First, workers would be free to sell any stock their company contributes to their retirement plan after participating for 3 years. In other words, if you've been a 3-year employee and your company has used stock as part of your retirement plan—which, by the way, is a good thing. I hope Congress understands it's a good thing to encourage companies to contribute their own stock to their employees as part of an incentive plan. On the other hand, an employee ought to be able to sell that stock after she or he has worked there for a 3-year period of time.

Secondly, they have what they call a blackout period sometimes, when they change a fund manager, for example. And here's what I believe ought to happen: If there's a blackout period in which employees can't conduct transactions, first, an executive shouldn't be able to sell if the employee can't sell. What's good for the executive ought to be good for the employees in America. If the boss sells, so should everybody else. And if everybody else can't sell, the boss doesn't get to sell.

There ought to be a guarantee that employees get to see at least quarterly reports on what's taking place in the 401(k) plans. Here, you get a minute-by-minute report. You know, the information flows so freely these days, it seems like it makes sense to give everybody instant access to what's going on in their accounts, and that's what ought to be happening. There ought to be, you know, at least quarterly reporting as well, as I mentioned, to make sure that small businesses have got an incentive to set up a plan, as well as liability protection against those employers who are anxious that there be as much information and as much knowledge passed between adviser and employee.

The whole point is this: We ought to do everything we can in Washington, DC, to encourage people to own a piece of the future. The more somebody owns something, the more somebody builds up an asset base, the better off America will be. And whether it be in Social Security or 401(k)s, we've got to understand the power of compounding interest, the importance of savings, and the beauty of ownership in the American society.

And what a great society this is. America—you know, when they hit us, they didn't realize that out of this terrible evil was going to come some good. Nobody—nobody in America wishes what happened on 9/11 would ever occur again, of course. And we're still sad when we think of the events—at least I am. But there's going to be some incredible good that comes out of this. The world will be more peaceful if we're strong and patient and resolved, and we will be. But as a result, I think our communities are going to be better. I think the American people have taken a good, hard look at what's important in life. They understand that loving your child, if you happen to be a mother or dad, is the most important job you'll ever have. America knows that.

I like to tell people that, if you're interested in fighting evil and want to join in the war against terror, love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. It's what I call the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness which define America and which enable America to stand tall in the face of evil. It's all these acts of goodness that take place in our society. Right here in Des Moines, Iowa, somebody walks across the street on a daily basis and says to a shut-in, "I love you. What can I do to help you?" It's that accumulation of all those acts which define our country.

What a great nation we are. We're a strong nation; we're a proud nation; and we're showing the world we're a deeply compassionate nation as well. Out of evil will come good. They thought they hit a weak nation, but instead they found a strong, strong group of people, and I'm proud to be your President.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:45 a.m. in the bindery at The Printer, Inc. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Thomas J. Vilsack of Iowa; Mary Kramer, president, Iowa State Senate; Brent Siegrist, speaker, Iowa State House of Representatives; and William C. Benskin, president, and Martin L. Benskin, vice president, The Printer, Inc.

Remarks at a Fundraiser for Representative Tom Latham in Des Moines

March 1, 2002

Thank you very much. Please be seated. It's an unbelievable honor for a guy from Midland, Texas, to be back in Iowa. [*Laughter*] As I recall, it started here, and I want to thank you all. I want to thank you for your support, and I want to thank you for coming out to support Tom Latham. And I want to thank you for your support for the Iowa Republican Party. And I want to thank you for that warm welcome. It's an honor to be back in your great State.

I too want to extend our most heartfelt sympathies to Katie Roth. As you know, Luke was—ran my campaign here in the primaries. I remember him as a joyous, fine, solid American. I talked to Katie the other day on the phone. I assured her the prayers of Iowa and Luke's friends are with her, and I know you join me, I hope, in praying for God's blessings on Katie and the family.

Somebody said to me the other day, "Do you plan on campaigning? You're the President of all the people." I said, "Sure I am. When I find somebody good, I'm going to help them." And Tom Latham is a good, good United States Congressman.

You bet I'm going to campaign. I'm going to campaign for a party that holds the values that I hold dear to my heart of heralding the individual and limiting the size and scope of Government, recognizing that all wisdom is not in Washington, DC, but is in local governments and individuals, recognizing that we must have a strong national defense to secure freedom. I am. I'm going to campaign. I want Denny Hastert to be the Speaker of the House, and I want Tom Latham returned to the United States Congress.

And I want to thank you all for coming to help, and I appreciate your generosity. I also want to thank Kathy Latham for her patience and her support of Tom. And like me, Tom married above himself. [*Laughter*] Thank you for being here, Kathy.

Speaking about marrying above myself, Laura is doing great. As you may remember, she was a public school librarian when I married her. She really wasn't interested in politics or politicians, and now she is a fabulous First Lady for the United States of America. She sends her greetings. I'm going to see her here in a while, and I look forward to telling her that I saw a lot of our friends in Iowa today at lunch.

I also want to thank Elaine Chao. You know, one of the ways you judge a President is what kind of team does he put together. And as you've seen, I've put together a fabulous national security team, a team of experienced hands and people who are willing to express their opinion, willing to work for what's best for America. And I've also put together a great domestic team as well. And one of those members is Elaine Chao, who is the Secretary of Labor, and I want to thank you for coming, Elaine.

I see the party chairman; Chuck, thank you for coming here. I got to know Larson on the campaign trail. Never did I realize he'd

be elevated to such a high standing in life. [*Laughter*] But now that he is, I hear that he's doing a great job. So Mr. Chairman, thank you for taking on a leadership role. I love your enthusiasm, and I love your zest for life.

I think Bob Ray is here. He set the standard for what it means to be a Governor. Terry Branstad I understand was going to be here, as well. If so, thanks for coming. There, Branstad, how are you? Hi, Bob. Thank you all for coming. It's good to see you both again. I know Mary Kramer told me she was coming, and I know the speaker is here and others from the State House. Mary, how are you? Again, thank you Speaker.

I want to thank you all for being here. I was back—met some folks back there, and this tall giant walked through. He said, "I used to mow down the Texas Rangers on a regular basis." And I said, "You're not Cal Eldred, are you?" He said, "Yes, I am." I said, "Well, I'm sorry to see you again." [*Laughter*] But I'm glad to see him here. Where are you, Cal? There he is. Thanks for coming, Cal. I appreciate your being here. I know you're sorry to be out of baseball, but Ranger fans are glad you are. [*Laughter*] At any rate, thank you all for coming.

Let me tell you a couple things about Tom Latham that it's important for those who might be undecided to listen to. One, he's on the Appropriations Committee. That's important, to be on the Appropriations Committee. It requires somebody who has got a little extra—a little extra talent to be on that committee in the House of Representatives. It makes no sense for people in the congressional district in which he's seeking to replace somebody on the Appropriations Committee with somebody who's not. The Appropriations Committee is one of the most important committees there is in the United States Congress. And not only that, but he's got some accomplishments that I want to tout.

One of them is—and this is an important issue that faces the future of America—he is a strong battler of illegal drugs. Methamphetamine, for example, has been a problem in the Midwest, a problem here in Iowa, and this good United States Congressman had the foresight and willingness to work to get a regional training center to fight methamphetamines. And I appreciate that very much, Tom, and so do the people of Iowa, and they've got to remember that when it gets ready to go into the polls.

As you know, in Washington we've got a lot of talkers. And what you need to do is herald the doers, the people who can get things done. One of the interesting issues, as you know, that obviously faces Iowans—and I learned this firsthand, of course—is the agricultural economy here. The farm bill is working its way through, and Tommy Latham understands a couple of points that are important. One, we need a safety net, but we don't want to encourage overproduction. We want a wise farm policy, and part of that wise farm policy is to make sure that we open up markets for trade.

The Iowa farmers are the best farmers in the world. And it makes sense if you're the best farmer in the world—if you're the best in the world, you want to be able to sell more, not sell less. And so when I was in China recently, I made it very clear to the Chinese officials with whom I met that they need to honor obligations and open up their markets, starting with soybeans from the United States of America. Those protectionist voices in Washington must not understand the Iowa farm community. The more product we sell, the better off it is for the Iowa farmer, and Tom Latham understands that.

He also understands, and I understand, the importance of value-added processing when it comes to agricultural products. I told the good people in Iowa, when I campaigned here, I supported ethanol. I supported ethanol as the nominee of the party, I supported ethanol as a candidate, and I support ethanol as the President of the United States.

But there are some other things we ought to do. We ought to do what Tom Latham has suggested and has done, which is to encourage more research and development between the Energy Department and the Ag Department, so that we can fully explore the potential of biomass. One thing you'll hear me talk a lot about is we need less dependency on foreign sources of energy. And there would be nothing better than to be able to grow our way out of that dependency. But it requires leadership, and Tom Latham has

provided that leadership for the good of Iowa, as well as for the good for the Nation.

And finally, an issue that he spends a lot of time thinking about and working on and talking to me about, is to make sure that there is equity for rural hospitals, particularly when it comes to Medicare reimbursements.

My point to the people of Iowa is that this is an accomplished man and a smart man who has got the interest of his district in his heart. And it makes a lot of sense, if you care about the future of Iowa—forget political party, if you care about the future of Iowa—to send this good man back to Washington, DC, come November.

And one other thing I like about him is he understands that the budget I sent up to Washington, DC—up in Washington, that prioritizes our national defense, is the right priority for the country. We're defending freedom, and I sent a budget up there that says, we're going to set a priority for defending freedom. And the Congress ought to pass that budget. It ought to recognize that the price for defending freedom is high, but whatever it takes, we ought to spend because our freedom is precious and dear.

This Nation has sent men and women who wear our uniform into battle to defend freedom, and they have performed brilliantly. But if we send them into battle, they deserve the best training, the best supplies, the best equipment. They deserve another pay raise. And Congress needs to fully fund the military and defense budget I sent up to both the Senate and the House because we're in for a long struggle. You know, I told the American people that this was a new kind of war. The enemy hit us. We've never been attacked like that before on the continental 48, and we realized that we're in a new era. And that's going to require patience of the American people, because we're chasing down a kind of a faceless enemy, an enemy who sends young men to die on suicide missions and they, themselves, try to hide in caves.

But you need to know how determined I am to defend America and our freedom. It doesn't matter how deep the cave is. It doesn't matter where the cave is. We're going to find them. We're going to slowly but surely hunt them down and bring them to justice.

In the course of this war, I laid out some doctrines that are pretty darn clear. One of them is, if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you provide aid or comfort to a terrorist, you are just as guilty as the terrorist. And the Taliban found out exactly what we meant.

Our military took on a tough mission to uphold that doctrine, and it was a dangerous mission, and they performed brilliantly. We're not conquerors; we showed the world we're liberators. We liberated people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. I cannot tell you how proud I was to see the joy on the faces of women and little girls in Afghanistan with the realization that this mighty Nation has freed them to realize their dreams.

I also made it clear to the world that either you are with us, or you're against us, that either you're with the United States in defending freedom, or you're not with the United States in defending freedom. And a lot of people have heard that Nation, and they're proud to sign up with us. And we've got a vast coalition, as we're hunting down the Al Qaida.

We've had over 1,000 arrests in places outside of Afghanistan. I mean, we're slowly but surely doing what we need to do to protect the homeland. And the coalition understands our determination, and they see our resolve.

I'm proud of the patience of the American people. The American people recognize the new type of war we're in. They understand that sometimes they'll see the action of the United States Government and sometimes we won't. But they also understand we must be strong and diligent as we defend freedom, because that's what we defend.

I made it clear that this is a war beyond just a single individual. One guy thinks he can hide, but he's not going to. We haven't heard much from him lately, by the way. [*Laughter*] But we fight terror wherever it exists. And this is for the good of our children. History has called us into action, and we must not and we will not blink. It's a chance to define freedom for future generations.

I made it clear that a scenario which I will not let stand is one in which a terrorist organization could team up with a nation that has

had a history of mistreating her people, a nontransparent nation perhaps, a nation that is known to be developing weapons of mass destruction. We cannot let, for the sake of our children and grandchildren, terrorist organizations team up with nations that want to develop weapons that can be delivered from long distances that will hurt ourselves, our friends, and our allies. We're not going to let the world's worst regimes develop the worst weapons and threaten the United States of America.

We're doing everything at home to defend the homeland. We've got a good strategy in place. It starts, by the way, with having the best intelligence possible, gathering intelligence from all around the world, disseminating on a quick basis, and following every lead and every hint.

If we get any kind of whiff that somebody is trying to do something to the American people, we're moving. We've got thousands of FBI agents whose major task, primary focus, is on preventing an attack. We're doing a much better job of coordinating with State and local authorities. We've got a national strategy in place to make our borders more secure, to make our Nation more responsive to a potential bioterrorist attack. I mean, we're making good progress, and our budget reflects that. But the best way to secure the homeland is to be relentless in our pursuit against terrorists, and that's exactly what's going to happen, so long as I'm the President of the United States.

You know, I remember campaigning in Chicago, and somebody said, "Would you ever spend a deficit?" And I said, "Only if we're at war or we had a recession or there was a national emergency." Little did I realize we'd get the trifecta. [*Laughter*] It's going to be important for Congress to fund the priorities. But in order to make sure whatever deficit we have is short lived, they better hold the line on the rest of the budget. And that's why the President has the veto pen. It's important for there to be fiscal discipline in Washington, DC, right now.

Our economy is, as you know, has been sputtering. And thankfully, the Congress, working with me, did a smart thing. Last March, we cut the taxes on the people who pay the bills in America. Actually, I think it took place a little later than March. Last year, we cut the taxes. It happened at the exact right time. You see, in order to stimulate economic vitality and growth, when we give people their own money back, it enhances demand, which causes more production, which creates job stability.

Now, there are some in Washington that have been mumbling beneath their breath that maybe they think they want to prevent the rest of the tax relief package from going through. I do not know what economic textbook they're reading. One thing you don't do is raise taxes in the middle of a recession. In order to stimulate growth, you trust the American people with their own money, and that's what we did. I appreciate Latham's vote on that matter, and I'm going to hold the line when it comes to tax relief.

And I can remember standing on farms in Iowa, standing by a generation of farmers, saying one of the worst things that can happen to the Iowa agricultural economy is the death tax. We need to get rid of the death tax, and I'm proud to report the death tax is on its way to extinction.

I hope Congress gives me a trade bill so I can open up markets. I hope Congress gives me an energy bill so we become less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil and can conserve more energy. I hope Congress gives me a stimulus package that not only takes care of workers who lost their jobs but recognizes that people want more than an unemployment check; they want a permanent paycheck. And we need to stimulate economic activity by encouraging more plant and equipment, more investment in plant and equipment. The House has acted. The Senate has stalled. It's time to get some of these important measures to my desk so we can make progress in the country.

I, like everybody else in America, was heartsick on 9/11. I mean, I can't tell you how sad I was, just like you, and then I got a little angry. And then I realized upon reflection that out of this evil was going to come some good, and it has. Out of this terrible evil, we have a chance to keep the peace for a long time coming, and we will. And out of this evil, this Nation has shown the world what a compassionate, kind place we are.

I always used to say that one of my hopes was that this Nation's culture would shift from one that said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture which says, "Each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life." Unbeknownst to the evildoers, I think they've helped accelerate that cultural change.

I know millions of Americans are asking the question, "What can I do to fight terror? What is it I can do to fight evil?" And they're beginning to realize what I know, that in order to fight evil, do something good. In order to stand square in the face of evil, this good Nation, through the millions of acts of kindness that take place on a daily basis, stands opposite of evil. And as a result of neighbors looking after neighbors, of people caring for somebody in need, of somebody loving their neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves, people understand there's a new responsibility to be had. Mothers and dads know that the most important job they will ever have is to love their children—is to love their children. Churches and synagogues and mosques, who have these fantastic neighborhood healing programs, need to be unleashed in America through the faith-based initiative that I have proposed. You see, Government shouldn't fear faith. We ought to welcome faith and the power of faith to change people's lives in a very positive way.

You know, I was working the ropeline over there at the retirement plan ceremony, and I ran into a guy I met in Colfax, Iowa, from Teen Challenge. It was a fantastic experience during the course of the caucuses because it gave me a chance to explain to people what I meant when—how faith changes life. But I'll never forget the heroin addict from Chicago standing up and saying he was clean because a power greater than himself entered into his heart.

These kinds of programs Government can't create. But these kind of programs exist in America because of the goodness of America. And this society is changing, as we unleash this compassion, as people understand that part of being responsible is not only responsible for your own family but responsible for loving a neighbor. And it's taking place in the country, and it's so powerful and positive, that leads me to say that out of this evil is going to come a stronger, more decent, more humble society.

There's defining moments that take place in our history, and I think a defining moment was Flight 93, when people on an airplane, on cell phones, told their wives they loved them, said a prayer, and drove a plane into the ground to save somebody's life, to serve something greater than yourself. It's the ultimate testimony to the American character and the American spirit which defines this Nation for what it is, the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. And I am really proud to be its President.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:54 a.m. in the Des Moines Room at the Marriott Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Katie Roth, whose husband Luke Roth was the President's Iowa State campaign director; Kathy Latham, wife of Representative Latham; Chuck Larson, Jr., chairman, Republican Party of Iowa; former Iowa Governors Robert D. Ray and Terry Branstad; Mary Kramer, president, Iowa State Senate; Brent Siegrist, speaker, Iowa State House of Representatives; and Cal Eldred, former pitcher, Chicago White Sox. Representative Tom Latham is a candidate for reelection in Iowa's Fifth Congressional District.

Statement on Establishing the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group

March 1, 2002

A prolonged drought and complex Federal and State legal issues have made for difficult times in the Klamath River Basin. Today I am establishing the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group to address concerns raised by farmers, ranchers, fishermen, tribes, and others affected by these difficult conditions. I have directed Secretary Norton, Secretary Veneman, Secretary Evans, and CEQ Chairman Connaughton to advise me of the immediate and long-term actions necessary to enhance water quality and quantity and to address the other complex economic and natural resource issues in the Klamath River Basin. I have directed the Working Group to begin their efforts immediately. I

want to thank Senator Gordon Smith and Congressman Greg Walden for their commitment to working together to find a lasting solution that meets the needs of the Klamath River Basin.

Memorandum on the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group

March 1, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality

Subject: Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group

The 2001 drought in the Klamath River Basin in Oregon and California, along with Federal legal requirements regarding water use, resulted in a scarcity of water available both for agricultural use and for maintenance of water levels necessary to sustain threatened and endangered fish populations in the Klamath River Basin. Last year, the reduction in water available for irrigation caused severe economic consequences in the Basin. Ensuring that the farming community has access to sufficient water supply while complying with Federal environmental laws and respecting Tribal trust obligations will involve complex economic and legal issues that call for the immediate attention of Cabinet-level officials and others. Accordingly, I direct as follows:

1. *Establishment.* There is hereby established the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group, which shall consist of the following officers of the Federal Government or other such officers designated by them: the Secretary of the Interior, who shall serve as Chair; the Secretary of Agriculture; the Secretary of Commerce; and the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality. Any designee named by a member of the group shall be a full-time or permanent part-time officer or employee of the Federal Government. The Secretary of the Interior may invite the participation of other Federal officials as appropriate and shall preside at meetings of the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group and shall direct its work.

2. *Mission.* The Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group shall advise the President on immediate steps and long-term solutions to enhance water quality and quantity and to address other complex issues in the Klamath River Basin. In formulating this advice, the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group or its members are encouraged to seek input from stakeholders, including members of the farming and fishing communities; residents of the Basin; representatives of conservation, environmental, and water use organizations, and existing coordinating entities; the States of Oregon and California; local governments; and representatives of Klamath River Basin Tribal governments.

3. *Funding.* The Department of the Interior shall, to the extent permitted by law and consistent with the need for funding as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, make funds appropriated to the Department of the Interior available to support the administrative costs of the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group.

4. *Authority.* Advice is requested from the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group pursuant to the Opinions Clause of Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution and other applicable constitutional authorities of the President.

5. *Termination.* The Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group shall terminate 18 months from the date of this memorandum, or at my direction, whichever occurs earlier.

George W. Bush

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 25

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael Alan Guhin for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as the U.S. Fissile Material Negotiator.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lawrence E. Butler to be Ambassador to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert Watson Cobb to be Inspector General of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

February 26

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada to discuss the President's recent travel to Asia, the Prime Minister's recent travel to Germany and Russia, cooperation against terrorism, and various U.S.-Canadian trade issues. The President also had a telephone conversation with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, concerning the situation in the Middle East and U.S.-Saudi relations.

Later in the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings.

In the evening, the President welcomed actor Mel Gibson to the White House and hosted a screening of the film "We Were Soldiers."

The President announced his intention to nominate John Peter Suarez to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

The President announced his intention to nominate J. Russell George to be Inspector General of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

February 27

In the morning, the President had breakfast with congressional leaders. Later, he traveled to Charlotte, NC, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas Forrest Hall to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Leonard Helgerson to be Inspector General for the Central Intelligence Agency.

February 28

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with King Mohamed VI of Morocco to discuss the situation in the Middle East and the United Nations effort to resolve the Western Sahara dispute. He then met with the Homeland Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney and then met with bipartisan Members of Congress to discuss steel policy.

The White House announced that the President will welcome His All Holiness Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church, to the White House on March 5.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker of Luxembourg for a working visit on March 6.

The White House announced that the President and Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland will meet at the White House on March 13.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert Patrick John Finn to be Ambassador to Afghanistan.

March 1

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he traveled to Des Moines, IA. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC. The President and Mrs. Bush then went to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Albert Casey to be a Governor of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stephen Geoffrey Rademaker to be Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jack David as Chairman of the U.S. Section of the United States and Canada Permanent Joint Board on Defense.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Naval Academy: Tirso Del Junco, Frederick Meyer,

Jane Ellen Newman, and Michael Stephen Steele.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted February 26

Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden, Jr., USMC,
to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, vice James R. Thompson, Jr., resigned.

Robert Watson Cobb,
of Maryland, to be Inspector General, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, vice Roberta L. Gross.

Michael Alan Guhin,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Executive Service, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Fissile Material Negotiator.

Otto J. Reich,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Western Hemisphere Affairs), vice Peter F. Romero, to which position he was appointed during the recess of the Senate from December 20, 2001, to January 23, 2002.

Submitted February 27

Lawrence E. Butler,
of Maine, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

J. Russell George,
of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Corporation for National and Community Service, vice Luise S. Jordan, resigned.

John Leonard Helgerson,
of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency, vice L. Britt Snider, resigned.

Victoria A. Lipnic,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Bernard E. Anderson.

Deborah Matz,
of New York, to be a member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for a term expiring August 2, 2005, vice Geoff Bacino, to which position she was appointed during the recess of the Senate from December 20, 2001, to January 23, 2002.

Naomi Shihab Nye,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006 (reappointment).

Submitted February 28

Rene Acosta,
of Virginia, to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board for the remainder of the term expiring August 27, 2003, vice William B. Cowen, who was appointed to this position during the recess of the Senate from December 20, 2001, to January 23, 2002.

Christopher C. Conner,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, vice Sylvia H. Rambo, retired.

John E. Jones III,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, vice James F. McClure, Jr., retired.

Submitted March 1

John R. Edwards,
of Vermont, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Vermont for the term of 4 years, vice John Hollingsworth Sinclair.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released February 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Annual Presidential Determinations for Major Illicit Drug Producing and Drug-Transit Countries

Fact sheet: Overview of Annual Presidential Determinations on Major Illicit Drug Producing and Drug-Transit Countries

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Address the National Emergency Management Association

Released February 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: Reforming Welfare To Increase Independence & Strengthen Families

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Deliver Remarks at the National Sheriffs' Association Mid-Winter Meeting

Released February 27

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released February 28

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on briefing remarks on the Middle East peace process

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of the Greek Orthodox Church

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker of Luxembourg

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Irish Prime Minister

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Lead U.S. Delegation to Mexico

Announcement of nominations for U.S. District Judges for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

Released March 1

Transcript of a press gaggle by Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Marshals for the District of Idaho, the Southern District of Illinois, the Northern District of Illinois, the Northern District of Iowa, and the District of Vermont

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

Proclamations

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